



Wale Delin Essex, Represented by a Female Figure, with the Arms of the County by her Side, Unrolling a Map of the County, to Curiosity & Agriculture, with Ancient & Modern Buildings, as well as the Produce & Manufactures of y^e said County.

Blond sculp



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Blond sculp

290 c 1

A New and Complete
HISTORY OF ESSEX,
FROM A LATE SURVEY;
Compared with the most celebrated Historians;
CONTAINING,
A natural and pleasing Description
OF THE SEVERAL
DIVISIONS of the COUNTY,

WITH THEIR
Products, and Curiosities of every Kind
BOTH ANCIENT AND MODERN.

A N D

A Review of the most remarkable Events and Revolutions therein, from the earliest Æra down to 1770.

ILLUSTRATED WITH COPPER-PLATES.

BY A GENTLEMAN.

VOL. I.

CHELMSFORD:

Printed and Sold by LIONEL HASSALL. MDCCLXX.

Sold also by F. NEWBERRY, in St. Paul's Church-yard, LONDON,

May it please Your Majesty,

IN dedicating this HISTORY OF ESSEX to Your Majesty, there is no Necessity to recite those eminent Virtues, with which the whole impartial World is convinced Your Majesty is endowed. Dedications are generally filled with fulsome Flattery; I shall not be accused of that Fault, in saying that, as all your Subjects enjoy their valuable Rights and Privileges under Your Majesty's mild Government, they will most readily join with me in devoutly praying, that there may never be wanting Princes of Your glorious Line, to sway the Sceptre of Your Majesty's extended Empire.

May I be allowed to express my most dutiful Thanks for Your Majesty's gracious Protection of this Work; and for allowing me the great Honour to dedicate and present it to Your Majesty.

Your Majesty's Most Obedient,

and Most Dutiful Subject,

and Servant,

PETER MUILMAN.

T O

Persons of every Rank and Degree,

INHABITANTS

Of the County of Essex,

THIS WORK;

Compiled for their Information and Amusement,

IS DEDICATED,

By their Obedient Servant,

The AUTHOR:

Persons of every Rank and Degree

IN HABITANTS

PETER MURPHY Esq.
OF THE COUNTY OF KERRY
OF KERRY-HALL

THIS WORK
IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX

Compiled for their Information and Amusement

2 VOLS. DEDICATED

YOUR Most Obedient Son
to the Patronage of the
following Work; and it would
be unpardonable to omit this
occasion of a public Acknowledgment. It is not the
Design

TO
PETER MUILMAN, Esq;

Of KIRBY-HALL,
In the County of ESSEX.

S I R,

YOUR Merit entitles you
to the Patronage of the
following Work ; and it would
be unpardonable to omit this
Occasion of a public Ac-
knowledgment. It is not the
Design

ii DEDICATION.

Design here to offer Violence to Modesty, by running into the usual adulatory Stile of Dedications, well knowing that they are least desirous of Applause who are most ready to deserve it. Let it suffice to mention your generous Concern for the Welfare of the County, and the signal Services performed by your Liberality and Munificence. These are so well known, and generally acknowledged, that a particular Repetition would be superfluous. Nothing but Envy can depreciate, or Malevolence misrepresent, your laudable Endeavours. It is indeed too much the Practice of some to discommend those good Actions

DEDICATION. iii

tions in others which they chuse not to imitate themselves. As a Member of the Community, I think myself bound in Gratitude to return Thanks to You, our public Benefactor. But there are besides private Obligations, which render this Duty indispensable; I mean your Assiduity in assisting the Compilation. Your Name has, for that Reason, an undoubted Right to stand in the Front of it. Under this Sanction it is therefore determined to send it Abroad. You will be pleased to accept this Testimony of Respect from one who can assure you he receives a sensible Pleasure in having the Opportunity

iv DEDICATION.

portunity of professing himself
your Admirer ; and that he
is, in a very particular Man-
ner,

S I R,

Your most obliged,

And most obedient

Humble Servant,

THE EDITOR.

Dec: 21, 1772.

THE
EDITOR
TO THE
READER.

CUSTOM has now rendered it almost unpardonable to offer a publication to the world without an introductory preface.

THE Editor of this History will not dispute the necessity of it: but only begs leave to observe, that his chief design in this work is to entertain and improve the inhabitants of Essex in general. Surprized that so serviceable a plan was not before put in execution, he undertakes the task with chearfulness; reflecting with pleasure that he may in some degree be useful to society.

He has endeavoured to describe every particular in an easy, natural manner. Avoiding the extreme of being either too elaborate, or too concise, he hopes to be happy enough to please the generality of readers. Apprized that the taste and dispositions of mankind widely differ, and that what might be amusing to one would be irksome to another, he has been more particularly attentive to yield to every purchaser a pleasing entertainment.

CURIOSITY often creates too anxious a concern in us, to know the AUTHOR of any piece that makes its appearance: nay there
are

are some who condemn a publication unread, because it bears not the signature of a great man. But when it is considered, how far prejudice and party now a days have the ascendancy over us, it will not seem unjustifiable that this history is without one.

THE works of many an ingenious man have been dispised entirely on account of the author's name being known, which otherwise would have received that praise they deservedly merited. But by giving his name he subjects himself to be malicious and inveterate satire of every anonymous writer who will condescend to abuse him.

THE considerate reader will ever look upon the title page with indifference, relying on the merit of the work itself for that satisfaction, which the sanction of a name can neither give, or take away.

SHOULD he meet with any thing in this history, which his own opinion contradicts, he is intreated not to be too severe in his censure: considering, the intention of it is to instruct mankind in the knowledge of that sphere wherein they move.

GREAT acknowledgments are due from the Editor to the Reverend and learned P. MORANT, F. S. A. for many valuable hints which will occasionally illustrate this work.

P R E F A C E

TO THE

R E A D E R.

IT is History that makes us acquainted with the Products, Trade, Navigation, and Commerce of each Place and Country; these, like the Tide, ebb and flow: The great County of *ESSEX*, however, has always had to a very great Degree, a large Share in the Manufactures, which still flourish in various Parts of it:

B

Colchester;

Colchester, Coggeshall, and Bocking are famous for Bays; at Halsted, the Hedinghams, and other Places, Says are made; the Poor all over the Country are set to spin, make Yarn, and weave into Pieces for Exportation into foreign Parts. The Tyranny and Cruelty of other Nations made Thousands fly their native Countries of Spain, France, and the Popish Parts of Germany; these, *ESSEX*, especially, received with open Arms; these religious and industrious People were cherished in this County; it is to them we are obliged, it is they that taught us, and it is to them we owe the Establishment of the Manufactures still carrying on all over the County.

THE Soil in almost all Parts being rich and good, produces Corn of all Kinds abundantly, the People remarkable sensible and wealthy, the Nearness to London, and Intercourse with its Inhabitants, contributing greatly thereto; the Industry of the People makes the Land so fertile that it looks like a Garden; having Woods, Water,

P R E F A C E.

iii

Water, high and low Lands variously cultivated: They have a great Share in Exportation to foreign Markets; besides which, they produce Hops about Hedingham; Saffron about Walden; and Oysters and Eringoes about Colchester.

By this History you will be informed, that, though formerly some few Places in this County were deemed agueish, it is now much less, and very little so even in the Hundreds of Rochford and Dengy; by draining and clearing the standing Waters, and Ditches and Water-Courses, and embanking by the Decrees of Woods, &c. in which Fogs, &c. are wont to hang; I say, by these various Ways and Means Things are as it were changed, and the Place rendered more healthy.

It is high Time a new Description should be made; we have not had what may be called a History since Camden's Time, now near Two Hundred Years ago: It is more than high Time every Country was described; the Face
of

of every District, Town, or Parish is so much altered within these fifty or an hundred Years, as to make it proverbial amongst old People returning from abroad, that they scarce know the Places of their Nativity.—In my Time a Quarter Part has been added to the then large Town of London: The West Side of Bond-Street, in 1720, looked into Kitchen Gardens; the North Side of High Holborn were Fields; Tyburn Road had only here and there a few Houses intermixed with Fields, &c. as a Proof see a Map of 1660.

THE learned Bishop Gibson of London, indeed, has made Additions to Camden, but he running into Antiquities, described very little of the Modern; and that so long ago as fifty or sixty Years, since which Time, as I said before, Arts and Sciences, as Agriculture, Architecture, Sculpture, Painting, and in short, all the Polite Arts have been amazingly advanced; all in a great Measure owing to the generous Support and Encouragement His Majesty has been pleased to give them. Navigation must not be
for-

P R E F A C E.

forgot; the noble Attempts of making Discoveries of hitherto unknown Parts, and that with Success, now of late Years, in various Parts, by Circumnavigators; by now sending Ships to the North Pole, &c. are Undertakings highly worthy of a great King, and a powerful Nation.

THE Plan this History or Description went on was such, that with the greatest Ease and Accuracy Great Britain and Ireland, in a very little Time, might be described; Essex containing four hundred and fifteen Parishes, Application was made to their respective Ministers, Curates, or principal Laymen; stated Queries were desired to be answered, A remarkable Cases and Things inserted; Camden for Antiquity helps as a Guide; Morant was an Assistant, but is improved on, and his Errors rectified; his Folio Edition is so expensive and unwieldy as to be troublesome, and not every body's Purchase; therefore this large Octavo is published, in seventy Numbers, at the small Price of Sixpence each; but I wish it had been published in Quarto, as being a Size I think, of all others, best;

P R E F A C E.

best; yet this deserves the assumed Name of
A New and Complete History, as it has the
principal monumental Description, which no
other Book has. I prevailed on most of the
Nobility and Gentry to give perspective Views of
their Seats, Houses, Churches, Castles, and even
some few Monuments, with infinite Trouble,
and considerable Expence; but very ornament-
al and useful in the Description of a Country,
as it affixes the Idea.

In the Writing Part I have very little con-
tributed, except in my own Parishes of the
Hedinghams and the Yeldhams, where my Pro-
perty lies.

I HAVE often declared a Partiality in fa-
vour of *ESSSEX*, and have, on various
Occasions, endeavoured to promote its Pro-
sperity and Welfare, and as it has, in many
Instances, divers Advantages more than other
Counties, I have often declared my Wish,
that *ESSSEX* should set all others a Pattern;
and it is with singular Pleasure I can inform
the

the Reader, that I have in some Measure succeeded, as I am informed that *Cheshire* KENT and DORSETSHIRE are doing, and ready to come out.

IF the Archbishops of CANTERBURY and YORK would signify to the Bishops of the respective Bishopricks, to order their Archdeacons to write to each Minister of a Parish to answer stated Queries, assisted by the most intelligent Laymen, an accurate and compleat History or Description of Great Britain and Ireland, might, without much Trouble, be obtained.

Kirby-Hall, Castle-
Hedingham, September
1773.

PETER MUILMAN.

F. S. A.

P R E F A C E

The Reader, that I have in some measure been
enabled as I am informed that the
Dormitory are doing, and ready to come
out.

In the Archdiocese of Canterbury and
York would signify to the Bishops of the
respective Bishopricks, to order their Arch-
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rish to answer these Queries, assisted by the
most intelligent lay men, an accurate and com-
plete History or Description of Great Britain
and Ireland, might without much Trouble
be obtained.

PETER MULLMAN.
F. S. A.

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T H E

HISTORY OF ESSEX, &c.

THIS county is in a manner a peninsula: being bounded on the east by the German ocean, on the west by the rivers Stort and Ley and a part of Hertfordshire; on the north by the Stour, which divides it from Suffolk and part of Cambridgeshire; and on the south the noble river Thames. It derived it's name originally from the Saxons, who termed it EAST-SEAXA: but upon the Norman conquest it was corrupted into EXSESSA, and is now vulgarly called ESSEX. The greatest extent from east to west, viz. from Walton in the Naze near Harwich to Roydon on the confines of Hertfordshire, is a little more than sixty miles: and from north to south, that is from Bartlow on the edge of Cambridgeshire to Tilbury-Fort, about fifty. It contains one million two hundred and forty thousand acres; forty-six parks; and one forest.

Essex

ESSEX is a county in many respects inferior to none: but from the pleasantness of it's situation, the fertility of it's soil, the conveniency of water-carriage, and the goodness of it's roads, derives advantages few others can boast of. It's surface is in general level, free from such barren rocks and mountains many other parts of England are incumbered with. Notwithstanding it is agreeably diversified with gentle eminences, which afford pleasing prospects, and the richest vales that yield the necessary supplies for the use of man. With respect to hills there are but two that deserve the appellation; Laingdon, and Danbury.

AMONG the advantages of this county, that of being well enclosed is not the most inconsiderable; for thereby, it is not so liable to suffer from the inclemency of the severe seasons as the open champaign countries. Indeed there are some few heaths and commons still remaining in their rude state, which by proper cultivation might be turned to great use. But as the legislative power have it under consideration how to dispose of these barren tracts of land to the best advantage throughout the kingdom, we may expect in a little time to see our agriculture still more flourishing. The EARL of WALDGRAVE has obtained an act of parliament for enclosing all that large tract in Navestock common and heath, containing upwards of seven hundred acres, and is now fencing it in. This without doubt will be productive of more enclosures of the same kind.

The

THE county in general is admirably well cloathed with timber ; which in any future war may be found of great importance. It's soil is of various kinds, but esteemed upon the whole very good. The great crops it produces, and the superior price the corn generally fetches at market, are convincing proofs of it's fertility. The marshes all along the side of the Thames, and further down the coast, afford the richest pasturage for all kinds of cattle, which are fed there in great abundance : and from whence the London markets are supplied with the finest meat. The veal and wheat here are universally acknowledged to be superior to that of any other. The sea and fresh waters supply the county with fish of all sorts. Here are likewise in different places, curious decoys erected for the taking wild fowl, which answer the intention beyond description.

AMONG it's natural products are hops and saffron ; likewise Eringo, which tho' it be not peculiar to this county, is candied in great quantities at Colchester both for home and foreign consumption.

FOSSILS are found in almost every part : but more particularly in or near the cliffs along the coast ; viz. those of Harwich, Prittlewell, &c. in the former of which they are to be met with in great quantities.

METALS and minerals, as they are almost peculiar to mountainous countries, are not to be looked for here.

THE physical gentlemen formerly made various attempts to discover medicinal waters ; and by their
VOL. I. No. 1. B industry

industry had raised those of Tilbury, Witham, Chigwell, and Upminster, to some degree of credit; but the three last of late years have sunk into obscurity, whilst the former deservedly retains the highest reputation.

It has been observed by several historians, that the ANTIQUITIES of ESSEX are very few. This assertion is in some respects, a just one; but the ancient state of it has been but slightly considered or little enquired into. In the ancient British times it was populous and well inhabited. Notwithstanding the BRITONS could not be supposed to leave monuments of themselves here, as they did in many other counties, on account of the great scarcity of stone quarries. However it was honoured with being the first colony ever established in Britain, and was very early and universally known to the Romans; the latter of which is confirmed by the considerable road that ran thro' it, and the many neighbouring ones that dissected it in various places.

THE air differs much in many parts, being in some healthy, in others quite the reverse. In the low lands near the Thames, such disagreeable vapours arise from the stagnated waters in the marshes, &c. as to render the air infectious. The constitution is most affected in the spring and fall. It has been advanced by many learned historians, that the ague, so peculiar to the Hundreds of Essex, proceeds from the water the inhabitants drink. That this is not, the case is obvious; for in many parts of Rochford Hundred

Hundred are springs of pure good water, notwithstanding the people are as much, if not more infested with this terrible disorder than those of the adjoining Hundreds, in most parts of which they can procure no other water than what they catch from the heavens. The ague then making such havock must be attributed to the pestilential vapours that arise from the stagnated waters, as before observed; together with the closeness of the country, which being so covered with wood, renders it impossible for the air properly to circulate. However, many acres have been cut down within these few years past, and the advantages to the whole country attending this step are universally acknowledged to be very great.

THERE are ten rivers belonging to this county, which either serve as boundaries to it, or run meandering thro' different parts, supplying it with a variety of fish, and watering it's bosom. Under the former are the Thames, the Ley, the Stort and the Stour. Under the latter are the Chelmer, the Colne, the Crouch, the Pant or Blackwater, the Rodon, and the Cam. All which will be taken notice of in their proper places. The little nameless brooks and rivulets are innumerable running thro' every parish, rendering it fruitful, and at the same time administering health and pleasure to the inhabitants.

It must be evident to the curious from speculation, not to mention the observations of historians, that the chief part, if not the whole of this extensive county, was one amazing forest, and by some means

or other vested in the crown. Camden informs us, that it was formerly called the forest of Essex. Great parts, however, were granted to private persons, and accordingly disafforested, and cultivated under King STEPHEN; notwithstanding these lands were subject to the forest laws.

IN the earliest ages it was an habitation for the British Druids. It was likewise a shelter and retirement afterwards for the venerable Britons in those alarming times, when the period of their settlement was hastening on.

IN the perilous days of the unfortunate king JOHN, his barons, by almost an act of compulsion, procured from their sovereign THE CHARTER OF FORESTS, and thereby delivered the subject from the rankest oppression. Rapin has made the following just observations. "The forests belonged originally to the crown, and the king had granted several parts and parcels to private men, who had grubbed them up and made them arable or pasture. But yet all that was thus grubbed was still called forest. These forests belonging to the king as his own demesnes, or as the sovereign Lord, were a continual source of vexatious suits as well against those which held them of the king, as against the neighbouring freemen, under the pretence of the rights of the crown.—Every article of this CHARTER is a clear evidence how much the subject was oppressed under the pretence of preserving the royal forest". This Charter however was
a bar

a bar to oppression, and a happy instrument of increasing our agriculture.

AFTER this step of his predecessor, Henry the Third, in the twelfth year of his reign, thought it prudent to know the whole extent of Waltham forest. For that purpose perambulations were taken, as well as in order more clearly to ascertain its value : and during his time large tracts of it were cleared for the plow. Edward the First also in the twenty-sixth and twenty-eighth years of his reign pursued the same judicious measures. Paul Lord Viscount Bayning was indefatigable in his endeavours to get many parts of it disafforested, in which he succeeded ; and his success encouraged many others to follow the same plan, by whom numbers of acres were cleared to the real emolument of the country.

In the twenty-eighth year of Edward the First, the Commons granted him a fifteenth of all their goods that the forest might be perambulated according to the CHARTER OF JOHN, and that the bounds assigned by the perambulators might stand secure and be observed. A curious roll containing the manner of assessing this fifteenth, is at this time in the possession of that ingenious historian, the Reverend P. Morant, A. M. and F. S. A. of Colchester.

NOTWITHSTANDING this salutary step, it was not productive of the desired effect, as is very evident from the various petitions to parliament in the reigns of Edw. II. Edw. III. Rich. II. and Henry V.

IN

IN the first year of the last mentioned monarch, the commons, determining if possible to put an end to the many disputes that had arisen, desired his majesty, "to grant and ordain, that the woods and "other possessions, which were afforested by all "the perambulations and ridings aforesaid, be forever disafforested notwithstanding any statute, &c. "to the contrary".—The king, upon mature reflection, returned an answer to this strenuous petition, truly noble and becoming that wise sovereign: — "That it should be lawful for any who were grieved "against the charter of the forest, made by JOHN in "1215, to sue to the king especially, and the king "will do them right."

Soon after this, Essex forest began to decrease much; and though now very extensive, is inconsiderable to what it was only two centuries ago. For in the latter reigns they clearly saw that the community in general would reap more advantages from it's cultivation, than in continuing longer a barren woodland country.

THE office of Chief Forrester of ESSEX was esteemed a very considerable one, and generally given to some illustrious family. The first we can learn that possessed it was one of the FITZ AUCHERS of Copped-Hall; who in the reign of Edward the First, in the year 1304, had the honorable title of King's Forrester.

THE Stewardship of this enormous forest was likewise a place of great consequence, and commonly filled by one of the chief of the nobility.

WE

WE find the DE' VERES earls of Oxford had an uninterrupted enjoyment of it for many generations, till deprived of it by Edward the Fourth, for their espousing the cause of the house of Lancaster with great violence. Upon their deprivation, it was presented by patent to Richard duke of York. However, upon the accession of Henry the Seventh to the English monarchy, it was restored to that noble family. And the second of December, 1489, the king under his own hand and seal, gave a grant of it to John earl of Oxford, with a rent during pleasure of nine pounds two shillings per annum.

THE power of the steward was great; for by virtue of his office, he substituted, one lieutenant, one riding forester, and three Yeomen foresters, for the three bailwicks into which the forest was divided. The perquisites of the warden and steward were amazing. They had all the deer-browsing-wood, all ways and strays, within the limits of the forest: likewise all amerciaments in the swain-motes and wood-comptes, agreeable to the assize of the forest, (the amerciaments for venison and the bodies of oaks only excepted.) Upon the sale of every wood, they were intitled to the second best oak contained therein; and the buyer and seller thereof were obliged to present them with one bow and one broad arrow, paying at the same time each of them one penny out of every shilling. They likewise received from the sale of every covert or hedge-row of every shilling one penny.

It

It may very easily be conceived, that as little regard as possible was paid to the statutes for disafforesting, when these powerful officers perceived that their profits must naturally diminish with the forest. Nay, rather than have their dominions curtailed, some of them were daring enough to use as forest what could never be deemed so by law or equity; and the subjects, on the other hand, made repeated encroachments therein with impunity; which actions could not be suffered when the lands were properly laid out and vested in separate hands. These were the nuisances that brought about the charter.

THE present ranger is the right honorable the earl of TILNEY.

ESSEX is divided into twenty parts. Fourteen of which are hundreds; five half hundreds; and one a royal liberty. A table of which follows, with the number of parishes contained in each.

HUNDREDS.	PARISHES.
Barstable, containing	32
Chafford, - - -	14
Chelmsford, - - -	30
Dengey, - - -	23
Dunmow, - - -	26
Hinckford, - - -	47
Lexden, - - -	30
Ongar, - - -	26
Rochford, - - -	24
Tendring, - - -	31

Thurstable,

THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

17

HUNDREDS. PARISHES.

Thurstable, containing	10
Uttlesford, - - -	26
Winfree, - - -	12
Witham, - - -	14

HALF-HUNDREDS. PARISHES.

Becontree, containing	9
Clavering, - - -	5
Freshwell, - - -	9
Harlow, - - -	11
Waltham, - - -	4

ROYAL LIBERTY. PARISH.

Havering, containing 1

THE several Hundreds, &c. are likewise subdivided into towns, parishes, hamlets, &c.

ESSEX has twenty-five towns, as under.

T O W N S.

Barking,	Epping,
Billericay,	Gray's Thurrock,
Braintree,	Halstead,
Burntwood,	Harlow,
Chelmsford,	Harwich,
Chipping Ongar,	Hatfield Broad Oak,
Coggeshall,	Ingatestone,
Colchester,	Maldon,
Dunmow,	Manningtree,
Vol I. No. 1.	C Raileigh,

Raileigh,		Walden,
Rochford,		Waltham Abbey,
Rumford,		and
Thaxted,		Witham.

MANY of these indeed, though distinguished by the names of market-towns, are now undeserving of such distinction; viz. Harlow, Raileigh, Rochford, Thaxted, &c.

THIS county contains four hundred parishes, including the sixteen in Colchester. It's inhabitants are very numerous; not more on the account of it's large extent, than of it's vicinity to the great metropolis. They cannot be clearly calculated without first knowing the number of houses or families, which is not very easy to learn. The ingenious Doctor Templeman says, that there are thirty-four thousand, eight hundred, and nineteen houses; and two hundred eight thousand, eight hundred souls. Admitting this gentleman's calculation to have been right at the time it was made, to offer it now would be absurd as the increase of building in these parts is astonishing. Another Historian computes the houses at forty thousand, five hundred and forty-five; and the souls at one hundred ninety-seven thousand. By their great difference in opinion, it is evident how impossible it is to obtain an exact account.

WHEN the militia act passed in 1757, a regular account was taken in this county of all that were able to bear arms in the defence of their country: the first list returned was twenty-nine thousand, five hundred

hundred and ninety ; the second twenty-three thousand, seven hundred and fifty-one.

ESSEX was without dispute first peopled by the Celts and Gauls, who Camden, with great plausibility, conjectures were the primary inhabitants of the whole island. He is supported in this his opinion by the very best authority. Some have vainly attempted to prove the Trojans were the first possessors of it ; while others more superstitious yet equally absurd, have asserted,* ' that the thirty daughters of a king ' of Syria headed by one of them, named Albina ' (from whom they imagine Britain derived the name ' of Albion) on their wedding night killed all their ' husbands ; and then coming over hither in a vessel ' without sails or oars, were the first that took possession of this island ; where from a connection with a ' sort of carnal spirits, they became pregnant, and ' brought forth a race of Giants'.

It will not appear so astonishing, that we have not had it handed down to us from the first inhabitants themselves, when we consider they had cares of a quite different concern than those of transmitting their actions to future ages.

NAY the Druids, who were their priests and sacred oracles, and must consequently be supposed to have had the care of their traditions, held it iniquitous and abominable to commit any thing thereof to book or writing. And had such writings been made,

* See Camden's remarks upon it in his *Britannia*, page 27.

they could have been but of short duration, on account of the frequent invasions made upon the islanders from the Picts and Scots. Even had they escaped these repeated revolutions, they must have yielded to the iron teeth of time as well as stones and pyramids, which 'are more durable than brass itself'.

JULIUS CÆSAR informs us, that the ancient Britons had a kind of administration among them, and that this country was divided into principalities and states, over which proper magistrates presided. The Druids had in peaceable times the conduct of all civil affairs. But in time of war they ever chose some one among them distinguished for his valor to be general of their forces, in whose zeal and confidence they could safely rely.

THEY were at times fond of liberty almost to a degree of madness; and were then so tenacious of it, as to yield up their lives a voluntary sacrifice, rather than submit to what had to them only the appearance of slavery, which they so much abhorred and detested.

WHEN Britain was divided after the descent of the Romans, (which was the first grand revolution) tradition tells us, that Essex composed a part of the kingdom of the Trinobantes. The inhabitants, rather than submit entirely to the galling yoke of their enemies, betook themselves to the western and northern parts of the island, which were then almost inaccessible. The emperor Severus divided the great acquisition of the Roman arms into Britannia Prima, and Britannia Secunda. Constantine the Great, after him,

him, subdivided the former of these into Flavia Cæsariensis and Maxima Cæsariensis. Under the emperor Valens another colony was added, and stiled Valentia, by Theodosius, ambassador and commander, in chief, in honor of his Master.

THIS county was then in the colony of Flavia Cæsariensis.

THE government was more regular and uniform under the conquerors, vested in the proprætors and other magistrates, who transacted the public affairs by instructions from Rome, and had Legions always ready for the defence of their laws on any emergent occasion.

THE Romans however, on account of their internal broils at home, in the emperorship of Valentine the younger, recalled a great part of their troops from Britain, notwithstanding their conquest; and even drained the island considerably of its natives. In the year 434 they took a final leave of Britain, to the great joy of it's inhabitants, who once more returned from banishment, and again enjoyed their former habitations. But, destitute of that necessary moderation which steers its possessors between the two extremes, they knew no bounds, but were either the slaves of cowardice, or ferocity. To this unhappy disposition may be attributed all the misfortunes that afterwards befel them; for the former subjected them to Roman slavery, and the latter occasioned the descent of the Saxons.

Vortigern,

* Vortigern, in 449, then king of the Britons, was under the disagreeable necessity of calling in foreign assistance, being invaded by the most savage of the Picts and Scots, his own people breaking out at the same time into furious seditions, and each usurping the government to himself. The Saxons came out of Germany to his assistance, and for some time restored that peace amongst them which was so much wanting. But in the year 478, perceiving from the enervated condition the state was in on account of their factions, that a conquest might easily be made over it, they determined to lay aside the title of auxiliaries, and at once become it's lords. This was as effectually accomplished as wisely planned; for so absolute a conquest was made as scarce any history whatever can parallel. They rooted out the old inhabitants, driving them to the most remote corners of the island, and by planting their own people in their stead, soon raised up swarming colonies. To make their triumph more glorious and complete, they utterly abolished the language of the country, substituting their own in it's place; changed the names of towns and cities imposing new ones; and, lastly, metamorphosed the name of Britain into England. This made the second grand revolution of Great Britain, and this County in course.

* Mr. Morant solely attributes King Vortigern's calling in the Saxons to his assistance to the turbulence and faction of the Britons themselves. But Camden, Rapin, and several other historians agree, that the encroachments of the Picts and Scots, added to the seditious disposition of his own people, were the joint cause of an application being made by him for foreign aid.

After

AFTER they had gained proper footing, they divided the whole island into seven kingdoms, making it an Heptarchy.

Essex was made a kingdom soon after the stratagem of Hengist; who being commander of the Saxon forces, obtained it from Vortigern upon the dreadful massacre of the British lords. Erchenwin was the first king thereof, who began his reign in 527, and died in 587, after reigning sixty years. For a table of the Saxon kings of Essex and many particulars of this revolution, the reader must be referred to our history of Colchester (which will appear in the course of this work;) as that place was oftentimes the chief residence of these monarchs.

It must be observed, says Rapin, that of all the kingdoms in the Saxon heptarchy, there is none of the history which is handed down so imperfect to us as that of the kingdom of Essex.

THE Saxons lived for some time harmoniously in their heptarchy. But commotions breaking out amongst them, the king of each principality strove to increase his dominions by repeated invasions on the territories of another, and the most successful at length had an eye to the supreme monarchy. Ecbryht king of the West Saxons, in the year of our Lord 823, having first subdued four of the estates, published an edict that the whole heptarchy should be united and called ENGLA-LAND.

ESSEX was one of the four that submitted to the victorious sovereign, and continued in dominion to him and his successors to the end of the Saxon line.

WHILE the heptarchy continued, England was not divided into what are now called counties, but, says Mr. Camden, into several small partitions, with their number of hides.*

TABLE OF THE SAXON KINGS OF ENGLAND.

Ecbryht,	Athelstan,
Ethelwulph,	Edmund,
Ethelbald,	Edred,
Ethelbert,	Edwi,
Ethelred,	Edgar,
Alfred,	Edward the Younger,
Edward the Elder,	Ethelred.

NOTWITHSTANDING this union of the seven kingdoms the Danes, who had before harressed them, continued their depredations, and now began to sack and destroy all that came in their way. However the valor of Ecbryht or Egbert and his successors, rescued the state for upwards of fifty years from that ruin and disaster which long threatened it. But after Ethelred's death, a man came to the crown whose cowardice and dulness gave the Deans fresh hopes of accomplishing what they before found was not in their power. This brought about the third grand revolution.

* A hide is said to contain as many acres of land as a plow could till in the space of a year.

OUR most celebrated writers affirm, that the English at last meanly submitted to pay tribute † to them. This was a convincing proof of their timidity, and what encouraged their enemies to give them no quarters till they had meanly acquiesced to wear the badge of Danish slavery.

‡ FOUR of their kings were masters of England from the year 1016 to 1042.

DANISH KINGS OF ENGLAND.

Swægn,

Canute or Cnut,

Harold, surnamed Harefoot,

Hardicnute.

NEITHER the Saxon policy or government underwent any considerable alteration during the reign of these monarchs.

NOTWITHSTANDING the Danes had infested England for more than two hundred years, and had the supreme dominion over it for twenty, the Danish yoke was at length shaken off and the Saxon line again restored under Edward the Confessor. This gave the nation fresh spirits: but their felicity unfortunately was of too short a continuance. For upon

† This tribute was called Dangel, a sum paid unto the Deans; derived from the Saxon word Gyldan, to pay.

‡ Mr. Morant, by some mistake, has made five Danish kings to preside over England. When it is very evident there were but four. Edmund Ironside, whom he styles one of the monarchs, was proclaimed king by the English in opposition to Canute, as son to Ethelred who was restored upon the Saxon line.

this success they gave themselves over to luxury ; all discipline was laid aside, and the state, like a diseased body, was cankered with every kind of vice. These were the forerunners of that invasion which for ever extirpated the Saxon line.

THE fourth and most considerable revolution in this kingdom was made by the Norman conquest of William the Bastard, anno 1066, who deposed princes and raised peasants. He abolished the Saxon and Danish laws, instituting Norman ones in their stead. He made great innovations in the language of the country, and treated it with such contempt, as to order that all causes that came before the courts of judicature should be pleaded in French. In short, such a total change was experienced under that usurper, as must strike every one with astonishment.

THE celebrated THOMPSON has left us so picturesque a description of it in his LIBERTY, that the perusal cannot but be agreeable to the generality of our readers.

• Compendious war ! (on Britain's glory bent,
 • So Fate ordain'd) in that decisive day,
 • The haughty Norman seiz'd at once an isle,
 • For which, thro' many a century in vain
 • The Roman, Saxon, Dane, had toil'd and bled.
 • A while my spirit slept ; the land awhile
 • Affrighted droop'd beneath despotic rage.
 • Instead of Edward's equal gentle laws,
 • The furious victor's partial will prevail'd.
 • All prostrate lay : and in the secret shade,

• Deep-

- ' Deep-stung, but fearful, indignation gnash'd
 ' His teeth. Of freedom, property despoil'd,
 ' And of their bulwark, arms ; with castles crush'd,
 ' With ruffians quarter'd o'er the bridled land ;
 ' The shivering wretches at the curfew sound
 ' Dejected sunk into their fordid beds,
 ' And thro' the mournful gloom of ancient times
 ' Mus'd sad, or thought of better. Ev'n to feed
 ' A tyrant's idle sport the peasant starv'd.
 ' To the wild herd, the pasture of the tame,
 ' The chearful hamlet, spiry town was giv'n ;
 ' And the brown forest roughen'd wide around.'

LIBERTY part IV. v. 737.

THE claim of William the Conqueror to this kingdom was founded on the weakest pretence imaginable ; the supposed promise of that weak prince Edward the Confessor, which Edward himself never once hinted in his last will. Nay had he made one in favour of this duke of Normandy, the people of England were by no means bound to consent to it, unless it had been ratified by the great council of the nation.

HOWEVER William was too politic to come over under the odious name of Conqueror : for he most strenuously endeavoured to instil the notion into the minds of the people, that he had a legal and indisputable right to the crown. His artful scheme in a great measure succeeded : for he deluded a part to believe him their just sovereign, who not opposing

him, the rest that disputed his title were either chastised into obedience, or sacrificed to the cruelty of him and his adherents. Some have endeavoured to prove that he never merited the name of Conqueror. But that he really conquered the English will never admit of a doubt so long as the annals of England shall continue.

AFTER the battle of Hastings he confiscated the estates of all the English who had fought against him, and presented them to the Normans or other foreigners his followers.

DOOMSDAY book informs us, that all the land owners in this county (two or three only excepted) being ninety in number, were deprived of their lands by that tyrant.

NOT only the civil, but also the ecclesiastical government underwent a marvellous alteration at the Norman conquest; for besides all the counties and baronies, all bishopricks and prelacies were likewise profusely given to the Normans: and it was a matter of great surprize to see an Englishman in the enjoyment of any place of honor or profit.

THE civil and ecclesiastical jurisdictions were jointly exercised (observes a polite writer) by giving the bishops a court of their own: but this was broke thro' by the Norman, and separated. And the lands of the bishops and greater abbots, which had been held before in frank almoigne, or free alms, were by the authority of the whole legislature under him, declared to be baronies, and bound to the same obligations

gations of homage and military service, as the civil tenures of the like nature, agreeable to the practice in France and Normandy.

UNDER such an arbitrary prince the most oppressive acts were to be looked for to crush the subject. He introduced that dreadful burden of military tenures, in imitation of those in Normandy, which were so heavy, that even the Normans who enjoyed immense possessions under him, found this grievance almost intolerable, and consequently sought every opportunity for redress. This was the direful cause of those bloody wars between the kings and the barons.

THE noble and learned Lord Lyttleton has thus described this Monarch. 'ATILLA himself did not more justly deserved to be named the scourge of God, than this merciless Norman. A lust of power which no regard to justice would limit; the most unrelenting cruelty, and the most unsatiable avarice possessed his soul. Where he had no advantage, no pride in forgiving, his nature discovered itself to be utterly void of all sense of compassion; and some barbarities which he committed, exceeded the bounds that even tyrants and conquerors prescribed to themselves.'

NOTWITHSTANDING his character is made by most historians a monument of his cruelty; it is but just to allow him that share of praise he really merited. He was reckoned one of the wisest princes of the times he lived in. He ever shewed the firmest resolution

resolution in executing those designs with intrepidity, which were formed by his own vigilance and activity. He looked upon danger with that calmness which true courage alone inspires man with, yet endeavoured to prevent it : but when that was ineffectual, he faced it with a bravery, which is the distinguishing characteristic of real valor : for though seated in the midst of warlike nations who were his joint and common enemies, he never sought refuge by mean submission, but purchased it victoriously by his skill in arms. In short he was the life of all military discipline, the friend and supporter of the polite arts and sciences.

A very visible change was perceived in the landed properties of Essex, in the cruel wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, according as the different parties prevailed. The illustrious family of the De Vere earls of Oxford, were reduced on account of them to the lowest ebb of poverty and distress, while that of Bouchier was exalted to the summit of splendor and riches.

AMONG the many alterations may not improperly be reckoned the founding and endowing a considerable number of monasteries and religious houses, which brought so many valuable estates into what is termed MORTMAIN, or dead hands.

Essex contained no less than forty-seven.

2 MITRED ABBIES.

Waltham Holy Cross.

St. John's, Colchester.

THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

35

6 COMMON ABBIES.

Biley,		Stratford Langthorn,
Coggeshall,		Tiltey,
St. Ofyth,		Walden.

22 PRIORIES.

Burden,		Horkefly Little,
Blackmore,		Latton,
Botolph, St. Colchester,		Lees Little,
Bycknacre,		Mersey West,
Carmelites, Maldon,		Pantfield,
Chelmsford,		Prittlewell,
Dunmow, Little		Stansgate,
Grey Friars, Colchester,		Takeley,
Earls-Colne,		Tiptree,
Hatfield Broad Oak,		Toby,
Hatfield Peverell,		Thremhall.

3 NUNNERIES.

Berking,
Hedingham Castle,
Wickes.

3 COLLEGES.

Halstead,
Pleshey,
Layer Marney.

2 PRÆCEPTORIES OF TEMPLARS.

Cressing,
Maplested Little.

9 HOS-

9 HOSPITALS.

Bocking,	Ilford, Great,
Brook-street, S. Weald.	Newport,
Crouched Friars,	St. Giles's, Maldon,
Hedingham Castle,	St. Mary Magdalen, in
Hornchurch,	Colchester.

For the particulars of these, and their several endowments, the reader must be referred to the respective parishes in which they are contained.

BEFORE the dissolution of these monasteries, their yearly revenue amounted to the sum of seven thousand five hundred pounds, which if we but consider the great increase of the value of land since those times, must be found to be immense.

HENRY the Eighth dissolved all the monasteries throughout the kingdom, upon the specious pretence of easing the subject from the payment of any tax whatever. But his views were to give a more unbridled loose to every kind of luxury. The yearly value* of all the religious houses throughout the kingdom amounted to one hundred sixty-one thousand pounds sterling; according to the rate they had been last farmed at. But it is to be observed, that the abbots and priors foreseeing the impending storm,

* The lands taken from the monasteries are computed by some to amount, at twenty years purchase at this present time, to thirty millions, five hundred and three thousand four hundred pounds. Those formerly belonging to the abbey of St. Alban, being worth at this day about two hundred thousand pounds a year; and those that belonged to Glassebury abbey, above three hundred thousand pounds yearly. Rapin, note, vol. i. p. 823.

had set the rents very low, and raised the fines exceedingly high; and thereby laid up something for their subsistence against that time, when they should be banished from their houses. This subterfuge did not escape the king's penetration; but it was rather agreeable to his wishes: for thereby the people were not acquainted with the prodigious sums that accrued to him from these suppressions.

THE last visitation of the monasteries under him tended only to seek apparent reasons to suppress them. It was a resolution of the king's; and, as Rapin observes, the real or reputed enormities of the monks were only a cover for his revenge, and perhaps for his avarice. After the first visitation was over, he ordered commissioners to go into several counties and receive the surrenders that the heads of the houses were to make to him. The abbots, priors, and monks perceiving that any opposition to his will would be ineffectual, and only subject them the more to his fury, made the best bargain they could for themselves.

To cloak the perfidy of his actions, the form of every surrender was made to begin thus. 'That the abbot and brethren, upon full deliberation, certain knowledge of their own proper motion, for certain just and reasonable causes, especially moving them in their souls and consciences, did freely and of their own accord give and grant their houses to the king'.

THEY were all however, notwithstanding this outward shew of justice, as basely sacked and pillaged,

as if they had fell into the hands of a foreign enemy. Some think that the parliament were deluded to give their ratification to it, in expectation that the exchequer would be rendered thereby inexhaustable; and that all ranks and degrees of men would reap a proportionate share of benefit in being freed from the weight of taxes*. But several reputable historians assert, that no parliament whatever could be more devoted to a king's will, than this was to the will of Henry. Indeed he offered as a plea for the reformation, that the abbots, monks, friars, and nuns, on account of their irregularities and bad conduct, ought to be extirpated. That he would create forty earls, sixty barons, three thousand knights of different orders, and raise forty thousand soldiers, with able officers, out of these church revenues; and that by so prudent a step, neither he nor his successors would ever afterwards stand in need of any loans, subsidies, or fifteenths from the subject. He promised to erect eighteen new bishoprics, and endow them with eighteen thousand pounds; but he contented himself with founding five†, and establishing a few canons in some cathedrals which the monks had possessed.

* The number of monasteries suppressed by Henry and his successor Edward the Sixth, amounted to no less than six hundred and fifty-three; besides two thousand three hundred and seventy-four chantries and free chapels; a hundred and ten hospitals; and ninety colleges.

The treasures alone found therein were computed at more than one hundred thousand pounds.

† Bristol, Chester, Oxford, Gloucester and Peterborough.

THE event of the whole proceeding clearly proved, that instead of easing the state, it was only the prelude to greater and more oppressive burdens. The number of poor vicarages throughout the kingdom, left with the scantiest allowances, is an incontestible proof of his boundless rapine; and his submission to that act of meanness, of debasing the current coin of his kingdom, and after all borrowing money, remains a mark of his little œconomy and great extravagance.

EDWARD the Sixth, in a great measure, pursued the plan laid down by his predecessor; for he suppressed the chantries that had escaped the devouring hand of Henry, and thereby divided a considerable quantity of land among many individuals. The endowments of them, it is true, in general, were not very great, consisting but of small parcels of land; but it must be remembered, that they were exceedingly numerous. Some, however, were not so trifling as is imagined; for instance, the chantry of Joseph Eleanor, of Colchester, which was endowed with more than a hundred acres.

THE custom of the visitation of churches took place in this reign; and that in such a manner as to raise astonishing sums. The four commissioners for that purpose were, Sir Richard Riche, George Norton, Thomas Josselyn, and Edmund Mordaunt. Their proceedings carried along with them the appearance of the most arbitrary government.

SEVERAL parishes in the county suffered under this visitation, particularly Walden.

IN the times of those unhappy tumults and wars in the last century between the republicans and the loyalists, Essex was not so deeply affected as some other counties; many of which became a prey to the savage barbarity of lawless ruffians. Indeed in 1642, we find, by a declaration of the lords and commons, that 'divers assemblies of people gathered together, 'in great bodies, who much damnified the houses, 'and took the goods of divers persons without law or 'authority.' Among the sufferers in our county Sir John Lucas was one who experienced the ungovernable insolence of a licentious band.

IN Husband's valuable collection of ordinances we read, that the counties of Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, and the city of Norwich, Cambridge, Hertfordshire, and the Isle of Ely, entered into an association in order to preserve and maintain the peace of the said counties at that alarming crisis, when affairs wore the blackest appearance, and threatened destruction to all around.

THE parliament committee acting for that noble purpose were in

1642

Sir Thomas Barrington,	Sir Henry Mildmay,
Sir Richard Everard,	Sir Mart. Lumley,
Sir Har. Grimston,	Henry Holcroft, Esq.
Sir Tho. Honeywood,	William Martin, Esq.
Sir William Mafham,	Joseph Sayer, Esq.

1643

1643

Joseph Atwood, Esq.		Sam Plume, Esq.
Sam. Freeborne, Esq.		and
Fran. Nicholson, Esq.		Robert Smyth, Esq.

1644

Wm. Atwood, Esq.		John Meede
John Barrington, Esq.		Car. Hen. Mildmay
Edm. Birkhead		T. Middleton, V. com.
Wm. Collard		Ol. Raymond
Henry Clitherowe,		Wm. Rowe
Wm. Hickes		Joseph Sorrel
Robert Kempe		Deane Tindal
A. Luther		Richard Wiseman
J. Matthews,		Isaac Wincoll

1645

Sam. Sheffield		Will. Harlakenden
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1655

John Brewster		Joseph Sparrow
Edm. Mounte		and
Joseph Symonds		Thomas Trafford.

' It was found expedient, to appoint a committee
' for the Weekly raising of Money towards the main-
' tenance of the army and forces, by an assessment
' upon every county.' The Essex committee was
composed of the following gentlemen :

Isaac

Isaac Alleyn,
 Wm. Atwood,
 Jer. Aylett,
 Nath. Bacon,
 Robert Brown,
 Robert Calthrop,
 Sir Tho. Cherke, Knt.
 William Collard,
 Robert Crane,
 Jos. Eldred,

Henry Farre,
 Samuel Freebourn,
 Sir Harbottle Grimston,
 Bart.
 Joseph Meade,
 Robert Smyth,
 Henry Wiseman,
 Robert Wiseman,
 Peter Whitcombe,
 Robert Young.

THE sums assessed by them upon this county were various: for at the beginning eleven hundred twenty-five pounds were raised weekly. Soon after it increased to sixteen hundred eighty-seven pounds. Not long after that it was raised monthly, and then it came to six thousand, seven hundred and fifty pounds. The same year it was reduced to sixteen hundred and fifty pounds monthly; and the final assessment of all was two thousand eighty-eight pounds. The other parts of the kingdom contributed their proportionate share in those days of general confusion.

MUCH about this time, of tax of new impost, or EXCISE was invented, and laid upon the nation; which was received with that peculiar abhorrence the English always shew when they fancy themselves likely to be oppressed.

THE murmurs and repinings of the kingdom cannot so much be wondered at, when we consider that this unpopular step followed rather too close those great

great assessments upon every county, which had been borne with some degree of patience and alacrity.

SEVERAL inhabitants of Essex refused to join with the prevailing powers. But such resistance only drew down upon them the resentment of the mighty, who branded them with the most odious names, deprived them of their estates by sequestration, or forced them to redeem them upon terms the most cruel and oppressive.

THAT none might escape this premeditated tyranny, formidable committees were appointed in whom the power was vested of sequestering the estates of all those, who made not an immediate compliance with their enormous demands. They treated all the delinquents (for such were they called who acted contrary to their notions) with the utmost severity, seizing on all their personal as well as real estates, allowing only a fifth part for the maintenance of their distressed wives and families. Such steps as these were of the utmost concern to the whole nation, and threw it into the greatest confusion. For under these rigorous measures many families were impoverished and reduced to extreme distress, while others were totally undone.

THE reader may easily conceive that the sums raised by these despotic means were exorbitant; for they amounted to some millions sterling.

IN process of time however, when the tumults had somewhat subsided, those who had been cruelly deprived of their estates were permitted to enjoy them.

them again; but not till they had first paid such enormous fines and compositions, as to be almost equal to the purchase.

MANY chose to recover their estates, &c. at this heavy expence, rather than entirely give them up as others did. The following is a list of those in Essex who were admitted to pay them.

NAMES.	PLACES.	COMPOSITIONS.
Altham, James . . .	Mark-hall, . . .	500 00
Appleton, Henry . . .	South Benfleet, . . .	456 00
Audeley, Sir Henry, . .	Bere-church, . . .	1600 00
Audeley, Robert . . .	Woodham Ferrers, . . .	238 00
Aylet, John . . .	Mag. Laver, . . .	460 00
Ayloff, Sir Benj. and son	Braxted, . . .	2000 00
Bailes, William . . .	Hortham, . . .	45 00
Bendish, Sir Thomas . .	Prisoner in the tower, . .	1000 00
Benson, John . . .	Quendon, . . .	300 00
Birom, George, M. D.	Chinckford, . . .	100 00
Bockenham, Ant. & Edw.	Dedham, . . .	90 00
Brocket, Anthony . . .	Willingale, . . .	1 00
Brown, Anthony . . .	South Weald, . . .	3 68
Browning, Reverend . .	Malden, . . .	818 00
Capel, Rt. Hon. Lord	4706 00
Clark, Sir Henry . . .	Pleshey, . . .	400 00
Clark, Lawrence . . .	Ditto, . . .	320 00
Corney, Hastings . . .	Staple Barton, . . .	130 00
Eyre, Henry . . .	Chapel Henolt, . . .	45 00
Fanshaw, John . . .	Parflew, . . .	} 250 00
(with forty pounds per annum settled,)		
Fanshaw, Thomas . . .	Jenkins, . . .	} 500 00
(with eighty pounds per annum settled,)		
Ireneau		

THE COUNTY OF ESSEX. 41

NAMES.	PLACES.	COMPOSITIONS.
Freman, John (by or for his wife Lady Helen Teungee,)	Chelmsford,	} 16 0 0
Freman, John	Chelmsford,	108 15 0
Freman, Thomas	Ditto,	62 10 0
Frutter, Edmund	Prittlewell,	20 0 0
Gardner, Thomas	Westham,	1200 0 0
Green, John	Epping,	200 0 0
Harris, Dame Ann	Writtle,	1642 3 0
Harris, William	Much Badow,	1 0 0
Harris, Christopher	Ditto,	1 0 0
Howard, Sir William	Tollesbury,	928 0 0
Leming, Henry	Chesterford,	280 0 0
Lucas, Sir John	Shenfield,	3634 0 0
Lucas, Sir Charles, knight,	Horsley,	508 10 0
Lucas, Sir Robert, knight,	Lexden,	637 0 0
Lynne, John	Horsley,	330 13 0
May, Adrian (with forty pounds per annum settled)	Little Dunmow,	} 252 0 0
Maynard, William	Low Layton,	50 0 0
Mildmay, Sir Humphry	Danbury,	1275 0 0
Neale, John	Theydon Mount,	130 0 0
Nevil, Henry	Cressing Temple,	6000 0 0
Nevil, William	Ditto,	211 13 4
Reniger, Samuel	Prittlewell,	22 0 0
Rock, Thomas	Moantney's Ing,	372 0 0
Salmon, Robert	Leigh,	120 0 0
Searle, John	Epping,	200 0 0
Strutt, Sir Denner, kn. . . . and baronet, }	Little Warley,	1350 0 0
Salyard, Sir Edward,	Runwell Rectory,	682 13 4
Sydenham, Sir Edward, Knight Marshall, }	Giddy Hall,	295 0 0

NAMES	PLACES	COMPOSITIONS
Talkerne, John .	. Bumpsted, .	100 00
Turner, William .	. Walden, .	1 10 0
Tyrrel, Sir John .	. East-Horndon, .	600 00

THIS was a severe stroke upon many individuals. But happy for this county, it was the last violent shock it ever received in its landed property. The glorious restoration followed in 1661: since which time no commotions have arisen to disturb that peace it has now so long enjoyed.

THERE were twelve castles in Essex: Four of which, as they were built for the defence of the nation in general, may with great propriety be called ROYAL CASTLES, viz.

Colchester		Landguard-fort
Hadley		Tilbury-fort.

THE remaining eight were castellated mansions of some of the first families; who either thro' the necessity of the times or a false ambition, heaped up these amazing bulwarks throughout the kingdom.

CASTLES.	FAMILIES.
Candfield and Hedingham, }	belonging to De Vere.
Clavering and Raleigh, }	Suene of Essex.
Ongar, - - -	Lucy.
Pleshey, }	Mandeville: and Bohun, Earls of Essex.
Stansted Montfichet, }	Gernon, alias de Mont- fichet.
Walden, - - -	Mandeville.

THESE, tho' formerly the pride and glory of the country, are now either ruinous or totally demolished; except the venerable one of Colchester, which has been preserved from sharing the same fate at no small expence by Charles Grey, esq. member for that borough. The curious must be referred for a minute account of these antique buildings to the hundreds in which they are contained.

THE monasteries have likewise experienced the same ravages of time: for scarce the remains of any appear, except those of St. Osyth, now the seat of the right honourable the earl of Rochford, secretary of state.

MANY counties may boast of more noble villas, yet Essex is ornamented with several superb seats of the nobility and gentry, who occasionally retire here from the scenes of dissipation, or the hurry of business.

It has been remarked by several writers (as has been before mentioned) that the antiquities of it are very few. But such an assertion will be found to be unsupported either by truth or reason, when we consider the tumuli and tessellated pavements that have been discovered in various parts of it; and the urns and innumerable coins it has produced, which now adorn the cabinets of the first antiquarians.

ESSEX receives many advantages from trade, the sole support of this envied nation. The cloathing business is conducted in many parts of it with

great spirit. The towns of Colchester, Coggeshall, Bocking, Braintree, Dedham, Halstead, and Heddingham, have chiefly been concerned in the manufacturing of bays and says; in some of which this advantageous business is carried on to an incredible amount, to the vast emolument of the proprietors, and the encouragement of the industrious poor. At Brightlingsea, a small town on the verge of the sea-shore, are some considerable copperas works, which employ a great number of smacks and vessels to dredge the stones along this coast, from which the copperas is refined.

THE land-tax is more severely felt in this county than in most others. By a list that has frequently been published, it pays twenty-four out of the five hundred and thirteen parts that all the counties are rated at throughout England.

THE inhabitants were indebted to themselves for the chief weight of a burthen, they soon afterwards became to think too weighty and oppressive. For in 1691, they were induced to give very high estimates of their estates, imagining that the land tax would be but of a very short continuance. But so desirable a sum as it produced, could never be found unwelcome, especially as it was granted to the crown with that liberality which more frequently accompanies a voluntary gift, than any odious assessment. Mr. Morant seems at a loss to know whither this step, (the event of which has, without doubt been prejudicial to the county) proceeded from their abundant zeal,

or a want of foresight. In the year 1767, it's share of this tax amounted, at four shillings in the pound, to the sum of eighty-nine thousand, four hundred and thirty-five pounds, nineteen shillings, and seven pence. The year following the house of Commons, (upon a division to ease the kingdom a little) reduced it to three shillings in the pound, and so it continues. The sum therefore it now pays is sixty-seven thousand, seventy-six pounds, nineteen shillings, and five-pence farthing; of which the following divisions pay as under;

HUNDREDS.		£.	s.	d.
Barstable	-	3965	14	0
Chafford	-	2326	9	3
Chelmsford	-	5638	8	7½
Dengy	-	3064	15	3
Dunmow	-	3790	19	0
Hinckford	-	8808	3	0
Lexden	-	6249	14	10½
Ongar	-	4379	16	3
Rochford	-	2796	19	6
Tendring	-	3482	9	4½

HALF HUNDREDS.

Becontree	-	4853	4	3
Clavering	-	1063	19	9
Freshwell	-	1788	2	6
Harlow	-	2656	11	0
Thurstable	-	1073	15	9½
Uttlesford	-	3678	16	0
Waltham	-	2342	14	6
Winthorpe	-	1146	1	10½
Witham	-	2418	7	10½

Royal

ROYAL LIBERTY.

	£.	s.	d.
Havering - - -	1551	16	9

* Total 67076 19 5½

IN the reign of Charles the First, when ship money was imposed upon the kingdom, contrary to the inclinations of the people, the proportion charged on Essex was,

	£
One ship, burden 640 tons, 256 men	8000
Borough of Thaxted, - - -	40
Town of Walden, - - -	80
Town of Colchester, - - -	400
Borough of Maldon, - - -	80
Borough of Harwich, - - -	20
	<hr/>
	8620

THO' so extensive, Essex sends no more than eight† members to parliament. Two of which represent the whole county in this grand council of the nation, who are called knights of the shire: and the boroughs of Maldon, Harwich, and Colchester are severally represented by two more, who are distinguished by the name of burgesses.

* In an alphabetical table, at the end of each hundred, the reader will be informed what part each parish throughout the county pays of this tax.

† At the conclusion of this work will be given a correct list of the knights of the shire for this county, and of the Burgesses of the boroughs therein; together with a table of the Sheriffs and Lord Lieutenants, from the earliest accounts.

To trace the origin of parliaments we must look back to the days of our Saxon ancestors, who had their WITENA-GEMOT or 'assembly of wise men.' The plan for so salutary a meeting they brought with them from Germany; where the affairs of the public always used to be decided before such an august assembly. The House of Commons (as Mr. Morant observes) assumed it's present form first in the reign of Henry the Third. Before this necessary regulation, the nation was but in part represented, notwithstanding a kind of convention was held of the archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, earls, barons, and all that held of the king 'in capite' or chief. It was therefore found expedient, for the good of the whole, that the several estates of the people should be strictly and properly represented. The wise alteration was productive of the happiest consequences. It was a check upon the royal prerogative whenever it attempted to extend itself beyond the bounds allowed it by our happy constitution; and thereby became the chief pillar of the liberties of the subject.

THE LOWER HOUSE then was erected as a barrier, that neither the rights of the sovereign or the subject might be trampled upon by the invasion of the other.

THE number of freeholders who voted for knights of the shire for Essex in the year 1724 was four thousand six hundred eighty-three. — In 1763 the poll amounted to five thousand one hundred and twenty-five

five.—And at the general election 1768 to four thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

THE government of this county is now divided into three separate and distinct branches under the king, who is Supreme Governor of Great Britain; the CIVIL, ECCLESIASTICAL, and MILITARY.

C I V I L.

THE Civil Government is vested in the Sheriff, who by virtue of his office holds the county courts and sheriff's-torn. It is so antient an office as to have been instituted by King ALFRED when he first divided England into counties, hundreds, tythings, &c. Before this division, the kingdom was portioned into provinces, over each of which a vice-dominus or lieutenant, presided. But the barbarian deportment of the people induced this monarch to appoint different officers, by whose vigilance those daring robberies might be suppressed, which were got to such a pitch as to threaten destruction to all good order and government. Accordingly by the activity of the sheriff's and their assistance, the nation soon enjoyed that peace it had so long been deprived of. Mr. Morant says, that antiently this officer, who was called VICE COMES, was only deputy to the earl: but since the Earl of Essex has been merely titular, (his pretensions in course ceasing in the county) his power has devolved to the Sheriff.

Some considerable time before, and after the Norman conquest, the office was not an annual one, as

at

at present. The appointment being in the breast of the sovereign, he seldom removed any from it but upon their own petition, or for the commission of any flagrant act of injustice. But Edward the Third (1340) in the fourteenth year of his reign, thought it more adviseable to confer the honor on the several families in each county, according to rotation. It was therefore enacted, that ‘no Sheriff shall tary in his bailiwick over one year, and then another convenient shall be ordained in his place, (that hath land sufficient in his bailiwick) by the chancellor, treasurer, and chief baron of the exchequer, taking to them the chief Justices of the one bench, and of the other, if they be present; and that shall be done yearly on the day after All Souls day, that is the third of November, at the exchequer’.

THE officers under him are the bailiffs of hundreds, high-constables for the several hundreds, goaler, and petty-constables. Sir Thomas Smyth, in his ‘Common wealth of England’, makes the place of high constable to have been of some importance. There are two of them in each hundred of this county except Witham, which has but one: and Hinckford, on account of its great extent has three. There are two or more petty constables in each parish or hamlet according to the discretion of the parishioners, who have the power of chusing them.

HERE are likewise certain EIRENARCHÆ, or justices of the peace, persons of great weight, and who have a considerable share in the government of the

county. Various are the opinions of the learned concerning the time of their first institution. While some are contending for it's being in the reign of Henry the Third, others in that of Edward the First, and some again of Edward the Second, we will take upon us to fix it in the time of Alfred; who deputed * these officers to, act with the VICE COMES, or Sheriff, for the suppression of notorious robberies. Indeed in 1327 Edward the Third, in the very infancy of his reign, appointed a sufficient number to act for the preservation of the peace, which before had not been done; and enacted, 'that in every county 'good men and lawful, which be no maintainers of 'evil or baretters in the country, shall be assigned to 'keep the peace'. And in another statute it was ordained, 'that in every county of England shall be 'assigned for the keeping of the peace, one lord, and 'with him three or four of the most worthy in the 'county, with some learned in the law'.

THE king now appoints them by commission under the great seal of Great Britain. Their power is very extensive. They hold four sessions in each year called quarter sessions, at the following times. In the first week after the feast of St. Michael: The first week

* 'The office of lieutenants of provinces he [Alfred] divided into two; 'judges, now called Justices, and Sheriffs, which still retain the same 'name. By the care and industry of those, the whole kingdom in a short time 'enjoyed so great peace, that if any traveller had let fall a sum of money never so late in the evening either in the fields or publick highways, if he 'came next morning, or even a month after, he should find it whole and untouched'.

after the Epiphany : the first week after Easter : and the first week after the translation of Thomas à Becket.

CORONERS are likewise officers of great consequence and antiquity. The name of this officer is derived from the nature of the office ; he anciently holding connusance of some pleas of the crown. The late judge Doddrige observes, ‘ that their first commencement is difficult to learn : but it seems at least coeval with that of the sheriff’. Tho’ it may be difficult to fix the time with any great degree of certainty, yet it was doubtless of Saxon institution. The privilege granted to the CORONATORIUS of hearing and determining some civil and criminal pleas did originally flow from the crown ; by which the sovereign’s ease of his supreme jurisdiction, delegated in part the royal justiciary power to him. This officer differs from most of the antient ones, being by virtue of his office a conservator of the peace ; tho’ he still continues to be elected ‘ e paribus’, or by the freeholders of the county. His dignity appears likewise to have been coequal with that of the sheriff : for the coroner was always the judge, and occasionally pronounced the sentence of outlawry ; which still remains with him, and can at this time be legally pronounced by no other person.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

THE whole of this county being within the diocese of London, and forming an extensive part of it, is

consequently in ecclesiastical matters governed by the bishop of that see. He has for his assistants here, the archdeacons of Essex, Colchester and Middlesex; besides a number of surrogates who reside in different parts of the county.

THE following deanries are in the archdeaconry of ESSEX.

Barstable,		Dengey,
Berking,		Ongar,
Cafford,		and
Chelmsford,		Rochford.

in which are contained one hundred seventy-five churches and chapels.

THE archdeaconry of Colchester comprehends the deanries of

Colchester,		Sandford,
Lexden,		and
Newport,		Tendring.

THESE contain one hundred and sixty-one churches, and chapels.

MIDDLESEX archdeaconry is but part in this county, in which however are the deanries of

Dunmow,
Harlow,
and
Hedingham.

* England was first divided into parishes in the year of our lord 636 by Honorius, then archbishop of Canterbury.

THE number of their churches and chapels is eighty-three.

HIS grace the archbishop of Canterbury has several peculiars belonging to him here, as well as in other counties; which, as such, come not under the inspection of the diocesan. These are

Bocking,	!	Lachingdon, with
Stysted,	!	Lawing.

M I L I T A R Y.

THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT of Essex is vested in the Lord Lieutenant; who is generally *custos ROTULORUM*, or keeper of the rolls, and often vice-admiral.

THEIR first institution is uncertain. But Henry the Eighth gave to them the chief part of the tower they now possess. For upon the suppression of monasteries he ordered, that they should be the standing representatives of the crown in their respective counties, to keep them in military order.

THE regiments of Militia throughout the kingdom are headed in times of war by the several Lord Lieutenants. Lord Rochford, the present lieutenant of Essex, has the command of two battalions the Eastern and Western: the former of which is embodied at Colchester, and the latter at Chelmsford.

CHELMSFORD

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED.

THIS hundred lying nearly in the center of the county, is both advantageously and pleasantly situated. The roads are exceedingly good; the soil is fertile; and the air temperate. It is not as has been described, a flat heavy country, but agreeably diversified with lawns and eminences, and plentifully supplied with the purest water. Under these many advantages it is no wonder that we find it populous, and that the generality of the inhabitants enjoy a good state of health. To add to the agreeable variety, it is ornamented with several neat and elegant seats of the gentry, &c. many of whom make this the chief place for their country residence.

It contains the following thirty parishes

Chelmsford,
Springfield,
Boreham,
Badow, Magna

Buttsbury,
Stock,
Margaret-ing,
Friering,

Badow

Badow, Parva	Blackmore,
Sandon,	Widford,
Danbury,	Writtle,
Woodham-Ferrers,	Roxwell;
Hanington, East	Bromfield,
Hanington, West	Chicknal, St. James
Hanington, South	Chicknal, Smeley
Rettenden,	Waltham, Magna
Runwell,	Waltham, Parva
Mountneys-ing,	Lees, Magna
Ingatestone,	Lees, Parva

CHELMSFORD

Is a town which stands at the confluence of two rivers, the Chelmer, and the Cann; from the former of which it derived it's name. In some places Domesday-book has it Celmeresfort, in others Celmeresforde. Many antient records call it Chelmeresford, Chelmesford, and Chelmsford. However it is evidently a contraction of CHELMER'S-FORD. All carriages, cattle, &c. being under the necessity of fording this river before bridges were thrown over it.

CHELMSFORD is the capital of the county, gives name both to the hundred and deanry, and is distant from London twenty-nine measured miles. The town consists but of four streets, but is beautiful, regular, and well built. The entrance to it from the metropolis is over an old stone bridge, built by Maurice bishop of London (anno. 1100) in the reign of Henry the First. No sooner is this passed over, than the

the attentive traveller is struck with the most agreeable surprize. A spacious ample street presents itself of a considerable length, in which are many handsome, good houses.

At the upper end, upon a little ascent, stands the shire-house; which though no very magnificent building, has a pleasing appearance. Over this is seen the tower, spire, and chief part of the church, which venerable structure terminates this little elegant piece of perspective. Each street lies with an easy descent towards the center, and is washed with a current of clear water. What contributes much to the peculiar cleanliness of this town, is it's being gravelled, and that with such skill and judgment as to form as it were a regular unjointed pavement.

THE sign posts which used formerly to project out so as to be a very glaring nuisance, are now entirely removed; and the inhabitants seem inspired with a laudable emulation, in endeavouring to outvie each other in the neatness of their dwellings. The Chelmer and the Cann form here an angle; along which lie many pleasure gardens, &c. and some of them are agreeably laid out. On the banks of these rivers various temples and summer houses are built, some of which are so pretty in their construction as to display an elegance of taste in the projectors. In an open space (nearly a square,) adjoining to the shire house stands a conduit. When it was first erected is uncertain, as it bears no date: but it was beautified by the noble family of the Fitzwalters. It is of a quadrangular

quadrangular form, about fifteen feet high, built with stone and brick : it has four pipes one on each side, from which the purest water is perpetually flowing. The following inscription is on the side that fronts the part from whence the spring rises.

‘ THIS CONDUIT in one minute runs 1 hoghead
‘ and $\frac{1}{2}$ and four gallons and $\frac{1}{2}$. In one day 2262 hogf-
‘ heads and 54 gallons. In one month 63360
‘ hogheads. And in one year 825942 hogheads
‘ and 54 gallons.’

LOWER down in four small tables are the under-written inscriptions, one on each side; they are happily chosen, and very allusive to the subject.

‘ Benignus Benignis.’

Bountiful to the bountious.

‘ Nec parcus parcis.’

Liberal to the covetous.

‘ Nec diminutus largiendo.’

Not diminished by bestowing.

‘ Sic charitas a deo fonte.’

Thus charity from the heavenly fountain:

THE top part of this little building is adorned with the royal arms : the arms of the late duke of Schomberg ; and those of the earl of Fitzwalter.

THE spring from which it is supplied rises about half a mile from the town, which is called Burges’s Well : it is large and strongly bricked round. Upon particular occasions this conduit has with-held it’s

chrystal stream, and to indulge the sons of Bacchus, poured forth wine with great liberality.

ABOUT a twelvemonth ago the inhabitants raised a subscription among themselves for laying leaden pipes, the old ones being wood and greatly decayed: this was attended with no small expence. In short this building is not only ornamental but of public utility.

THIS town is considerable in many respects. It is most conveniently situated for the transaction of the public business of the county. The assizes, general quarter sessions, petty sessions, county courts, and sittings of the commissioners for the land and window-tax are held here. Here likewise are made the elections for the knights of the shire; and here stands the county goal*.

THE great road from London to Colchester, to Harwich, to Suffolk, and many parts of Norfolk lies through here; on which account it is furnished with several good inns for the reception of travellers. Here is a good market every Friday, supplied with corn, meat, fish, fowls, &c. &c.

* The county lately petitioned the house of commons for leave to bring in a bill to enable them to erect a new county goal. This being granted, a bill was carried in by Sir William Maynard, Bart. the preamble of which sets forth, 'that the common goal of the county of Essex, situate at Chelmsford, in the said county, is in a very unwholesome, obnoxious, and inconvenient place, and is too small, and being a very ancient building, and greatly gone to decay, is so incapable of being repaired, that it is necessary a new goal be built, &c.' The bill has not yet passed the house, and it is imagined will be strongly opposed by several gentlemen of the county, who are, on the other hand, of opinion, that the present situation is the most eligible for this necessary building.

Adjoining to the shire house is a good market place where the dealers in corn, &c. resort, more conveniently to carry on their business: which in the height of the market has the appearance of an Exchange. It is supported by strong pillars.

In the year 1738 an account was taken of the number of the inhabitants, which then was two thousand one hundred and fifty-one: but they have considerably increased since that time, as well as the houses, the latter of which are now notwithstanding very eagerly sought after.

CHELMSFORD formed a part of the valuable possessions of the bishops of London in the reign of Edward the Confessor, and at the time of the grand survey. It seems to have been of little note till it came into their hands; and certainly to them it is indebted for its rise and present grandeur. Formerly the great road lay through Writtle, which then was a place of some consequence) till Maurice, bishop of London, as has been before observed, built a bridge here over the river. It was then that it began to rise from its original obscurity: for by this step of that prelate, the town began to increase both in its buildings and in the number of its inhabitants, receiving great emolument from the resort of travellers.

We cannot learn however that they had then any market; for the first royal licence seems to be that which William de sancta Maria, bishop of London, obtained from king John in the first year of his reign: he also procured one for a fair. Notwithstanding

these privileges enjoyed by many former bishops, Edward the First called in question the legality of them in the thirteenth year of his reign, and 'issued out 'a quo warranto against bishop Richard de Gravesend, to shew what claim he had to view of frank-pledge, gallows, tumbrel, pillory, free warren, and 'the assize of bread.'—However upon a proper representation of the case to his majesty, that king by his gracious letters patent, confirmed to the same bishop, Richard de Gravesend, 'a view of frank-pledge in his manors of Orsette, Leyndon, and 'Chelmsford in this county.' Likewise Richard the Second on the twenty-sixth day of July, in the year 1395, made a grant by letters patent under the great seal to Robert Braybroke, bishop of London, of the return of all writs.

ACCORDING to some parliamentary records we find, that this town once returned members to the grand council of the nation, which was holden at Westminster in the eleventh year of the reign of Edward the Third. Its representatives were, William de Mascall, John de Thorpe, John le Marescal, and William Wendover. Their representation was but of a short continuance. It may appear strange, that after the power of being represented in parliament was once vested in this town, it should so speedily be deprived of it. But it must be considered that in former times, when almost every thing wore a quite different aspect than at present, the members returned to this council had a certain salary allowed them

them by their constituents to defray their expences. It is therefore most probable that the people of Chelmsford petitioned to be eased of a burthen which they were unable to support, and which on account of the then insignificancy of the place, they afterwards found unnecessary.

If credit can be given to some historians, this town was once incorporated, and enjoyed several privileges, Gray, in one of his notes on Butler's Hudibras observes, that it was antiently governed by a tinker, a taylor, and a cobbler. But this seems to carry with it more the appearance of a reflection on its former meanness, than that of authority to be relied on.

HERE are often public diversions, such as balls, concerts, &c. Two plates, value fifty pounds each, are given annually to be run for on Gallywood Common near this place; one of which is collected from the neighbouring nobility and gentry; and the other, called the town-plate, is subscribed for by its inhabitants.

A REGULAR and respectable constituted lodge of the ancient order of free and accepted masonry is likewise held here the second and fourth Monday in every month.

THE CHURCH is a noble structure, situated at the end of the town, and dedicated to St. Mary. It has three spacious ayshes which run to the end of the chancel, and are leaded. A stately square tower, built of stone, stands at the west end, with proper pyramids on each corner. Upon it is erected a light genteel

genteel spire; which is likewise leaded, and has rather a pretty effect. It has a ring of six bells, a clock, and * a set of chimes.

THE body of the church is supported by pillars of a light construction, yet of excellent workmanship. The pews are much decayed, and the floor is but indifferent. The windows are gothic and curious. At the west end, adjoining to the bellfry, is a vacancy, which seems originally to have been designed for an organ, as the situation is very suitable for that purpose. So necessary an addition would render this place of public worship more completely awful, and do a lasting honor to the numerous and respectable congregation, who assemble here to pour fourth their praises and thanksgiving to the author of their being. Here is a good vestry for the use of the clergyman, and another for the transaction of the parish business. On one side the tower is a place in which are kept two fire-engines for the benefit of the town and parish.

THE eastern window over the altar piece was formerly curiously painted by the pencil of a great master in his profession, and was supposed to have been executed at the first foundation of the church. The subject was noble and pathetic, being no less than the history of our blessed saviour, from his miraculous conception, to his glorious ascension. The scenes, tho' various, are said to have been all done

* It is said to have had a peal of eight bells, but that the parishioners gave two of them to Writtle, in exchange for their chimes which were accordingly brought here.

with that softness and expression, which ever accompany the productions of a great genius. But in the reign of Charles the First (anno 1641) the parliament issued out an ordinance 'that all scandalous and superstitious pictures should be taken out of the churches'. The rector and church-wardens were unwilling to deprive the church of so venerable an ornament. However being obliged to conform, they took down the pictures of our saviour on the cross, and the blessed virgin, and had the cavities filled with new glass. But the mob, whose minds at that time were inflamed to a pitch of insanity, not esteeming it a sufficient reformation, assembled in the most daring and outrageous manner on the fifth of November, and with stones, sticks and other weapons, beat down or defaced the whole of this beautiful window. The arms of several noblemen and gentlemen who had been benefactors to the church had been painted and variously displayed round these expressive pieces; which shared the same fate. The destroying the paintings was not the only loss that was felt: for posterity by this outrage are deprived of the pleasures of recounting those generous names, whose memory should never have been forgot. Dr. Michaelson, who was rector in those melancholly times, met with the mob barbarous and inhuman treatment for exerting himself upon the occasion with that spirit as became the office of a clergyman, and the duty of a christian.

When the churches of Essex underwent a visitation in the year 1634, several escutcheons and banners were

were then observed in the roof of the center isle, supposed to be the trophies of those who had been liberal donors to the building. But even these were soon after construed superstitious, and consequently ordered to be taken down and destroyed.

THIS whole structure was re-edified by voluntary subscriptions in the year 1424, as is evident from the following inscription; the characters of which are each of them near a foot long, and composed of small flint stones cemented strongly in mortar. It is done in relievo on the south side of the center ayse underneath the battlements fronting the town.

‘PRAY FOR THE GOOD ESTATE OF ALL THE
‘TOWNSHEPE OF CHELMYSFORD THAT HATH
‘BEEN LIBERAL WILLERS AND PROCORERS OF
‘HELPERS TO THYS WERKE; AND FOR... THEM
‘THAT FIRST BEGAN, AND LONGEST SHELL CON-
‘TENOWE... IT... IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORDE
‘I THOUSAND IIII HUNDRETH XX IIII’.

It is now very imperfect, having suffered greatly from the injuries of time, and the inclemencies of weather. The letters in Italics have been cut out some years since, in order to make room for leaden spouts to carry the water from the battlements.

IN the days when superstition and popery had gained the deepest root in this island, there were no less than four endowed guilds or chanteries belonging to this church.

St.

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED. 63

	VALUE.
St. John's guild, at the altar of St. John,	1 13 4
Corpus Christi guild, at the altar called Corpus Christi,	8 15 6
Our Lady's guild, at the altar of our Lady,	3 13 8
Mountney's chantry, founded by Sir John Mountney in this church yard,	11 10 0

THERE were likewise eighteen obits founded here, and properly endowed. The land that originally belonged to them, cannot by any means be now traced out.

THERE is a door in the north isle, which leads into a library given by John Kingsbridge, D. D. for the use of the clergy of the town of Chelmsford and its environs. Here are some books well chosen and of value: but for want of a librarian they are taken very little care of. The place in which it stands is imagined to have been a chapel belonging to one or other of the chantries; and most likely that of Mountney, which was adjoining to the church.

THE register's office for the transaction of ecclesiastical business is over the great porch door; under the window of which is an antient carved nyche, that seems to have contained some curious piece of sculpture.

ON the north and south side the bellfry, places separated from the body of the church by deal partitions, are the twelve apostles painted upon wood; they seem to be antique, and not despicable in point of

figure or drapery. Several of them are still remaining perfect, though some defaced, or otherwise damaged.

THE church-yard is spacious and kept clean. The walks through it are neatly gravelled, and the rows of stately trees which grow on each side, are a venerable addition to this awful memento of mortality.

SOME centuries ago there stood a chapel dedicated to Saint Margaret on the north side of the church, near the road that leads from the town to Bishop's-hall, to which manor it was appendant. In all probability it had it's situation in what is now called the town-field. The bishops of London collated to it (as appears by their register called Baldock) in the year 1321, 1336, and 1337. It doubtless continued vested in them till the time of it's demolition.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE north ayse of the chancel of Chelmsford church seems entirely appropriated for the place of interment of the ancient Mildmay family. Here stands two monuments, one of which is stately and magnificent, erected to the memory of the earl of Fitzwalter, &c. It is about twenty feet high and six broad. In a nyche of curious grey marble in the center stands a spacious urn, on each side of which is a pillar of elegant porphyry, with entablatures of the Corinthian order. Adjoining to them are seen standing on pedestals two cherubims, one with a torch

reversed,

reversed, the other in a melancholly attitude. Near the top the arms of this noble family are skilfully displayed in white marble, and neatly ornamented. In a table at the bottom is read this inscription, in capital letters :

' HERE lyeth Benjamin Mildmay, earl of Fitzwalter, who having many years served his king and country in several great offices, with dignity and integrity, died February 29, 1756, aged 86.

' He inhabited the baronies of Fitzwalter, Egremond, Botitoffe and Burnells from Sir Henry Mildmay his great grandfather, son of Sir Thomas Mildmay, who married in 1580 Lady Frances, only daughter and heir of Henry earl of Suffex : in whom those baronies in fee were vested.

' He married in 1724 Frederica countess Dowager of Holderness, by whom he had issue one son who died an infant. He was created earl of Fitzwalter and viscount Harwich in 1720 : who dying without issue, devised his estates to William Mildmay, esq. his nearest relation in the male line. By whom, in gratitude, this monument was erected.

' HERE also lyeth Frederica countess of Fitzwalter, wife of the said earl, who died August 7, 1751, aged 63. She was daughter of Mintchart duke of Schomberg, (count of the Roman empire) by the lady Charlotte, daughter of Charles Lewis, elector Palatine. By her first husband, Robert earl of Holderness, she had issue Robert, who succeeded to his father's honors 1721, and lady Caroline, who married to the earl of Ancram.'

THE artist of this elegant monument was Mr. James Lovell ; who seems to have done strict justice to the laudable intention of his employer. 2

THE other is in the north-east corner, and so near to the former, as to be enclosed together with it in the same iron pallisadoes. It is rather an antient

monumental tomb of stone, curiously carved, but has lately been white-washed over. At the lower part of it are three pannels: the center one of which contains the family arms. In that on the right hand are the effigies of the father and his eight sons; and in that on the left, the mother and her seven daughters. About the middle of the tomb is the date 1571. The top is arched, &c. in which is a table gilt with the following lines in capital letters: the pointing is very bad, but may be read thus:

*Sculptus adest Thomas Mildmaius, sculptaque conjux
Avicia: ast intus, molliter ossa cubant
Armiger ille fuit clarus: fuit hæc Gulielmi,
Filia Gernoni, flos decus armigeri,
Chara tori ter quinque vide, sua pignora fausti,
Partus sunt septem fæminei, octo mares.
Mille et quingentis a partu virginis annos
Septem quinque, quæ ter dabis atque decem.
Tum d. cima sexta Septembris, luce redibat
Avicia in cineres, quæ cinis ante fuit
Anno post bitum nono decimoque calendas
Octobris, Thomam mors inimica ferit.*

And thus translated:

Here are seen graven the effigies of
Thomas Mildmay, and Avice his wife;
But within there remains lie in peace.
He was a renowned Esquire:
She a daughter, and lovely branch of
William Gernon. Esqr.
They had fifteen pledges of their prosperous love,
Seven whereof were females,
Eight were males.

Afterwards

Afterwards in the year of our Lord 1529,

And in the morning on the 16th day of September,

Avick returned to that dust

From whence she originally sprung.

And

On the 10th day of the calends of October,

In the ninth year following,

The unrelenting king of terrors

Triumphed over Thomas.

In the center ayfle of the chancel on the north side is a small monument (inlaid in the wall) to perpetuate the memory of MATHEW RUDD, gent. who died in 1615, aged 60.

ON a black marble table in the center of it are the effigies of a man and woman arrayed in the attire of ancient days. Around them stands their family. The king of terrors is seen between them exalted upon a kind of shrine; brandishing his hostile weapons: and in a circle over his head is this motto, VENI, VIDI, VICI: *I came, I saw, I conquered.*

It bears the following inscription in capitals.

Thus death triumphs and tells us all must die.

Thus we triumph to Christ by death to flie

To live. To die is not to die, but live;

To die to blifs is blessed life to give.

Oh blefs me then! Oh strike me at the harte!

Breathe out my life, and let my soul departe.

Aske how he liv'd, and thou shalt know his end,

He died a saint to God, — to poor a friend.

Adjoining

ADJOINING to this is seen a neat marble monument to the memory of ROBERT BOWND, gent. who died the fifth of December 1696, aged 75.

CLOSE to this, near the altar, is another of white marble veined with grey, to the memory of THOMASINA, wife of FRANCIS POTTER, esq. who departed Nov. 28, 1715, aged 59.

NEAR the east window of the south chancel is a small monument of Mr. JEREMIAH THWAITES, of Springfield, who procured a faculty and built a vault there for his own use. 'He was one of the 'hundred yeoman of the guards to king Charles '2nd to James 2nd. William the 3d. and Mary II; 'Usher to queen Ann and king George the 1st, and 'dyed 1 December 1716, aged 74.' His wife and brother lie here, whose names are recorded on the same stone.

IN a corner of the north ayfle of the church is an elegant monument to the memory of Mrs. Marsh. It is a composition of various kinds of marble, displayed with great skill and judgment. It consists of a large pyramidal table of grey marble, against which is seen an urn of porphyry curiously decorated, and standing on a wrought pedestal. On the sides of which a little lower are two smaller urns. A swelling table of white bordered with yellowish marble, gives the reader this information.

H. R.

H. R. I. P.

The body of Mrs. MARY MARSH
of this parish; she died the 7th of November 1757.
whose executor and sole legattee JOHN OLMUS, esq.
of NEW-HALL, hath in greatful remembrance
of so good a friend, caused this monument
to be erected.

Here also lie deposited the remains
of her father Mr. THOMAS MARSH, and MARY his
Wife. Likewise THOMAS their son, and two
Daughters who died young.

BENEATH are the family arms in white marble
placed on a curious piece of Ægyptian porphyry. In
short the whole is light, elegant, and expressive.

In the porch over the great door of the church,
near the register's office, is a plain neat little monu-
ment with this inscription :

Near the feet of these stairs
Lyes the body of
James Lucas, N. P.
who for many years was
the deputy register of these offices
and carried on the trust
thereby reposed with credit and honour;
and settled the same as above
at his own expence.

He died the 8th of March, 1759, aged 64.

Here also lieth Mary, his wife
who died Sep. 24, 1766 aged 66.

On a black marble table affixed to the south wall
of the chancel, the following donation is recorded.

The

The gift of Dame Alice Row,
and Sarah Nash wids: daughters
of Mr. William Seager of Chelmesforde,
Dame Alice Rowe, by her will
dated October the 30th 1701
gave 100*l.* and the said Sarah Nash 100
to buy a meadow in this parish call'd
Tunman Mead; the yearly rent to be
laid out by the trustees for bread to
be distributed quarterly to the poor
of this parish for ever.
by the church-wardens for the time being.

THE parish enjoys several other charities; the
donation of some of which the parishioners themselves
know not, as the records and writings of them were
destroyed in the times of Charles, when the nation
was in such a state of anarchy and confusion.

In this town is a royal free-school, founded by
king Edward the Sixth in the fifth year of his reign,
by patent under the great seal of the kingdom, dated
the twenty-fourth day of March, 1552. This
princely foundation was obtained through the petition
of Sir William Petre, knt. then one of his Majesty's
principal secretaries of state; Sir Walter Mildmay,
knt. one of the general supervisors of the court of
augmentations; Sir Henry Tyrrell, knt. and Tho-
mas Mildmay, esq. together with that of the inhabi-
tants of Chelmsford and Moulsham, to be called by
the name of 'the free-grammar-school of king
'Edward the Sixth, for the instruction of youth in
'grammar learning, under the care and inspection of
'a school-

‘a schoolmaster and an usher’. It was very liberally endowed by the above mentioned monarch, with

Hill's Chantry	in	Great Badow.
Stonehouse ditto	- - -	East Tilbury.
Cortwyke march	- - -	West Tilbury.
Plumborough marsh	- -	Southminster.
Barries and Squite crofts.	}	Hatfield Peverel.

Out of these they pay yearly forty shillings and eight-pence to the poor of Great Badow for ever; and seven shillings and ten-pence to the court of augmentations.

EDWARD made them a body corporate and politic for ever by the name of ‘the Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the free school of King Edward in the parish of Chelmsford.’—

They have accordingly a large seal of brass, on which is curiously engraven a rose somewhat after the manner of the seal of the privy council. Round the edge of it is the following inscription in capitals.

COE. SIGILL. GUB. POSS. REV. E. BONOR. LIBSCHO:
GRAM. REG. EDRI VIth IN CHELMSFORD IN COM.
ESSEX.

Mr. Morant observes, that this seal was found some years ago, in one of the streets in Colchester, and sold; but that the purchaser generously presented it to the governors of this school.

THE four gentlemen who were before mentioned as the chief instruments of this school being erected, were appointed primary governors for life, and in

their respective families was settled the future government of it. Upon the decease of either of the governors, his heir male was to be chosen, but if there was none such, the governors, or major part of them, were to make choice of a proper person bearing the estate of a knight, whose family was resident, and whose connections were chiefly in the county. And if it so happened that all the governors died without male issue, his majesty granted power to the bishop of London to nominate and appoint four others according to his discretion in their room bearing the order of Knights.

BEFORE any convenient place could be provided, the governors hired a large room for the school at the Friars near the river; which place was before the refectory, or hall belonging to the monks. But in the year 1633 the whole roof of this antient building fell in at once. This providentially happened in the middle of the day, just as the school was over, and the boys gone to dinner; otherwise all of them (who were at that time very numerous) must inevitably have perished: however it prevented its continuance any longer there. Mr. Durdwin was then the head, and Mr. Peake the under-master.

THE late governors used to take their respective turns to preside, and manage in rotation for five years each successively. But the present ones act jointly; these are Sir William Mildmay, bart. Carew Harvy Mildmay, esq. and Sir William Maynard, bart. Since the death of Carew Mildmay, jun. esq. a fourth has not yet been added.

The

THE present school was erected new as it now stands by Sir John Tyrrell, bart. who was at that time acting governor. He purchased great part of the yard, gardens, &c. belonging to the George Inn for that purpose. He likewise purchased a considerable part of the inn itself: this with additions and enlargements he converted into a house for the head master, which made an exceeding good one; about it are proper out-houses, &c. The school room, which has been improved by the late lord Fitzwalter and other subsequent trustees, is lofty, and spacious. The race-balls, concerts, &c. have occasionally been held in it. At the end of it is a neat and convenient garden. The situation is pretty, and the whole forms a comfortable residence.

BESIDES this the town has the advantage of two other charity schools. One founded the seventeenth day of August, 1713, for fifty boys; the other in April 1714, for twenty girls; both which are supported by voluntary subscriptions, &c.

THE boys wear a blue uniform, with woolen caps, and bands. The girls are cloathed with yellow stuff gowns. Over the former a proper master presides, who has a salary of thirty pounds a year, who instructs them in reading, writing, and arithmetic. A mistress instructs the latter in the several necessary qualifications towards making them good housewives. They are all trained in the paths of religion and virtue; and when qualified, are respectively put out by the trustees to such employments

as they are capable of, and agreeable to the intent of the society. The number of the boys is decreased to thirty-two. The school stands in the north-east corner of the church yard, as does the master's house, which is a pretty brick dwelling, with a good garden contiguous.

ANJOINING to this charity school are three almshouses appropriated for decayed families; and close to them are two other little brick dwellings, the use of which will be understood by the inscription on free stone in the center :

Erected Anno 1731
 With money arising by Sale of a
 Barn given by William Davy Anno 1520 to
 the poore of Chelmsford, who ordain'd
 the profits should be laid out
 For Wood, &c.
 To be distributed to the poore at
 Christmas yearly,
 And the rent of these two tenements
 are to be applied to that purpose :
 Mr. Baron Comyns giving
 part of this ground to build upon.

IN the same street way which leads to Bishop's hall on the left hand side, stands the parish workhouse, which is a spacious brick building that is an asylum for the infirm and sickly parish paupers, who are here employed in spinning, carding, &c. Over the door in the front is a free stone table, which informs us, that

The Right Honorable
 Charles Lord Fitzwalter,
 and the other inhabitants of the
 parish of Chelmsford with a general
 consent, ordered this workhouse
 to be built for the better maintenance
 of the poor of the aforesaid parish.

MDCCLXVI.

In the parish of Chelmsford are the manors of Bishop's-hall and Moulsham; and a part of that of Bekefwell lies here.

BISHOP'S-HALL is a manor which formerly was in the possession of the bishops of London, at which time it had the appellation of Chelmsford manor, alias Bishop's-hall. It continued vested in them together with the town till the year 1545, when Edmund Boner, bishop of that see, did on the third day of September, grant the same with all it's privileges, together with the advowson of the living, to king Henry the Eighth, his heirs, and successors for ever. This grant was no sooner made, than confirmed by the dean and chapter of St. Paul's; which appears by their deed dated but the fifth day of the same month. It continued in the crown till 1563, when queen Elizabeth, on the twenty-fourth day of July, gave a grant of it with all the rights and appurtenances thereof, together with the mansion-house, &c. unto Thomas Mildmay, esq. and his heirs for ever. From whom it has lineally descended thro' that antient family to the present Sir William Mildmay, bart.

The

THE mansion-house is antient and stands pleasantly on the north side of the town, on the banks of the river Chelmer. And a little to the westward of this is situated the parsonage house, which has a pretty modern front, and is surrounded by a neat garden, orchard, &c.

THE following antique discription of this manor, &c. is copied from an old survey of it, compiled at the court leet and court baron holden for Sir Thomas Mildmay, knt. on the twenty-third day of June, 1591. The book from whence it is taken is now in the possession of Sir William Mildmay, bart. the present lord. But we flatter ourselves this extract will be entertaining to the generality of our readers.

‘CHELMERSFORDE is one ancient goodly manor
 ‘situate in the heart of the county of Essex, in good
 ‘and wholesome air, conveniently and well housed,
 ‘and well built for timber and tile. The chief manor house was in the time of king Edward the
 ‘thirde brent and wasted with fire; and before that
 ‘it seemed to have been some antient barony. This
 ‘manor hath very fair demefne lands, woods, and
 ‘wastes, and also a great service, more than two-
 ‘hundred tenants, that hold of the same manor
 ‘their lands tenements and hereditaments, by reasonable rents, customs, and services: of which,
 ‘number above thirty are noblemen, knights,
 ‘esquires, and gentlemen of good countenance. —
 ‘Within this manor, upon parcel of the same, upon
 the

the common road way, is situate the town of Chelmesford, sometime written the burrowe of Chelmesford, well situated, with more than 300 habitations, divers of them seemly for gentlemen, many fair inns, and the residue of the same habitations for victuallers and artificers of city-like buildings, and are all holden of the said maner of Chelmesforde, mediately or immediately, by reasonable rents, customs and services. This town is called the Shire-town, not only by the statue of 11 of King Henry VII. for the custody of weights and measures, but so reputed and taken long time before by the keeping of all assizes and sessions of the peace, and many other certifications of the inquisitions there. It is also a great thorough-fare, and market town weekly upon the Fridaye.

In the upper face of which town-shipe is situate the parish church of the same town, a goodly, seemly and large building of stone, covered with lead, meet for the receipt of two thousand people, or more. — And in the steeple is a convenient ring of four bells. Not far distant from which parish church is one other fair building, called the Market-crofs, or Session-house: — and there was then the common goal.

HERE are some abbey-lands in this parish, as appears from a licence granted to Phillip de Aungre, and Alice his wife, by Edward the Third in the year 1348, empowering them thereby to give to the custos, and chaplains of the guild at the altar of St. Mary

Mary de Thele in the county of Hertford, and their successors for ever, twenty-six acres of arable, one of meadow, and five of pasture; together with three messuages, all lying and being in the parishes of Chelmsford and Bromfield. But upon a representation of mismanagement and other gross behaviour in this chantry to William bishop of London who was sole patron of this college in the reign of Henry the Sixth, he requested that monarch to grant to John Howeden, clerk, then custos thereof, power of transferring the lands and impropriations in Essex and elsewhere, unto Henry Hoddesden, prior of the hospital of Elsing-Spittle, London. Agreeable to this petition his majesty issued his royal licence, which was immediately enforced.

THE manor of Moulsham is only separated from Chelmsford by the river Cann. These two places have a communication with each other by a stone bridge. It is a hamlet of itself, and is called the hamlet of Moulsham, Mulsham, and in many old records Mulsho. Before the Norman conquest we find it was in the possession of the abbot and convent of the cathedral church of St. Peter Westminster, by the name of Mulsham; and continued vested in them till the time of the general dissolution of religious houses, when it shared the same fate with the rest, and came in course to the crown.

HOWEVER it did not long remain there. For king Henry the Eighth granted it unto Thomas Mildmay, gent. one of the auditors of the court of augmenta-

tions,

tions, by his royal letters patent on the twenty-third day of July 1540, being the thirty-second year of his reign, for a valuable consideration (six hundred twenty-two pounds, five shillings and eight-pence half-penny,) at twenty years purchase. With this grant was given all the rights and privileges thereto appertaining, with a water mill called Mulsham-mill, and lands and woods known by the name of Mulsham-frith; together with all the lands, tenements, messuages, mills, &c. belonging to the aforesaid monastery of St. Peter's, Westminster, lying and being in the parishes of Chelmsforde, Great Badow, Widforde, Stocke, and Writtle, and in the hamlet of Mulsham; to have and to hold the same Thomas Mildmay, esq. and his heirs for ever.

THIS manor is thus recorded in the antient survey taken in 1591; from which we had the foregoing description of Bishop's-hall, &c.

'THE manor of Mulsham is one antient entire
'manor, lying together within itself in severalty,
'holden of the queen's majesty in chief, and not
'holden or any way chargeable or contributory to
'any castle, honor or other common or special
'seigniory. And it hath belonging unto it, in soils,
'demesnes and wastes more than thirteen hundred
'acres of good sorts of country soil, both in clay
'and sand. And also has the rents, customs, and
'services of more than two hundred convenient te-
'nances, holding of the same manor by free deed,
'and copy of court roll. And there is belonging

‘ of common poor vicinage more than fifteen hundred acres, called Galle-wood common, situate in the parishes of Much Badow, Stock, Ging Margaret, and Chelmsford aforesaid, but divided from the manor of Chelmsford by one main river.

‘ THE manor place of Mulsham, commonly called Mulsham-hall, at this day is the seat of Sir Thomas Mildmay, knt. In former times it had no proprietary dwelling upon the same, but used by fermers, and under fermers, by reason whereof it was grown into great ruin and decay, until about the thirty-third or thirty-fourth year of king Henry the Eighth, Thomas Mildmay, esq; did build the same very beautifully, so as it was then accounted the greatest esquire’s building within the said county of Essex. And since that time it is much bettered, augmented, and beautified by the same Sir Thomas Mildmay.

‘ THIS manor is seated in a very good wholesome air, upon the sand, and gravel, not moated or compassed with waters, but hath sufficient store of ponds, and water courses. And hath conveyances brought into the house, into each office, of very good wholesome spring water abundantly. And of woods it hath great store.

‘ To the said manor place are many fair gardens, and orchards belonging, replenished with great store of good, and some rare kinds of fruits and herbs.

‘ There

‘THERE belong to it a dove-house of brick;
 ‘a fair game of deer imparked; a great warren; a
 ‘goodly fishing-course both in private ponds and
 ‘common river; a very good water-mill, and
 ‘great store of other like necessary provisions. This
 ‘manor hath three hamlets within the same, viz. the
 ‘hamlet and street of Mulsham; the hamlet and
 ‘street of Wideforde, and the hamlet of Gavel-
 ‘wood, which do contain many good habitations
 ‘and tenancies, and are all holden of the said manor
 ‘either by free deed, or copy of court roll, or at
 ‘the will of the lord of the said manor.

‘IN the hamlet of Mulsham there is one * Gram-
 ‘mar-school, with convenient stipend for the master
 ‘and usher; and is in ~~the~~ gift of Sir Thomas Mild-
 ‘may, knt. lord of the said manor. And there is al-
 ‘so within the said hamlet one hospital or poor house
 ‘for the maintainance and relief of divers poor leprous
 ‘and lazer people; which are put in and out by the
 ‘said lord. And within the said hamlet also is one
 ‘antient cross, or building with a prison for the
 ‘hamlet. And the cross serveth sometime as a mar-
 ‘ket cross, for sale of pease in the season, and for
 ‘flesh and other mean victuals.

‘THE hamlet having no market proper to them-
 ‘selves, but as they are partakers of the market of
 ‘Chelmsford for the Friday only, and other times
 ‘in their own crosses.’

* This is the school of royal foundation, that was afterwards removed into Chelmsford.

THESE accounts of the two manors, are it is true drawn up with that artless simplicity peculiar to the antients. However they seem superior in point of language, to the generality of the productions of the times in which they were written, and are a pattern worthy the imitation of the modern writers in the conciseness of their description.

ON the manor of Moulsham stands the mansion house of this great and antient family, distinguished by the name of Moulsham-hall. It is delightfully placed on an easy ascent about a quarter of a mile on the east side of the town of Chelmsford, and stands nearly east, west, north, and south. The grand front commands Danbury-hill. It is very regular and on the top of it are three statues representing Diana, Apollo and Mercury: under these are the family arms in basso relievo, carved in free stone. The other parts of the house have a view of the London road, the town of Chelmsford, the park, gardens, &c. It was rebuilt by the late Benjamin earl Fitzwalter and was planned with the nicest skill and judgment, to render it so completely elegant, and at the same time truly commodious. The pilasters, cornices, entablatures, and other decorative ornaments are all of stone. In the inside is a quadrangular court flagged. It has a gallery on each floor round it, by which means an easy access is obtained to all the different apartments, without the inconveniency of making any of them a passage. The principal rooms are large and well disposed.



Moulsham Hall, near Chelmsford in Essex, the Seat of S.^r W.^m Mildmay Bar.^t

disposed. The grand hall at the entrance is lofty, and the cieling curiously wrought with fret work.

In the breakfast room are many pictures of the eminent part of the Mildmay family, some of which are well executed. Among these are Sir Walter, who was chancellor of the exchequer, and founder of Emanuel College, Cambridge, in the year 1587. A whole length of Sir Thomas Mildmay, auditor of the court of augmentations in the reign of Henry the Eighth, in the year 1540. Here is likewise a royal sporting piece of as much expression as can possibly rise from canvas.

THE great picture room contains several family pieces, many of them executed in a masterly manner; among which are the late earl of Fitzwalter and his lady; the former arrayed with his chamberlain's robes; the other in an easy loose dress. On the left hand the chimney piece is a half length of lord Ancram, and on the right the same of lord Holderneffe. Here is a good piece of the old duke of Schombergh on horse-back, attended by a black, who carries his helmet. Over the door, near it, is his son; facing which is the late lady Fitzwalter's sister. In the little picture room contiguous to this, are many good paintings; to describe all which would swell this work beyond it's intended plan. On the right hand the door is seen a half length of an old woman with a white hood, whose distorted features shew the utmost distress. Upon her shoulder a caterpillar is seen crawling, which is said not only
to

to have been the cause of her great fears, but even of her death : it is a good piece. Here are various landscapes, family portraits, and other masterly drawings ; among which seems to be St. Luke sitting with a pen in his hand and a book before him, receiving angelic inspiration.

NEAR this is an antique piece of Matilda, daughter to the lord Robert Fitzwalter, who was poisoned in the abbey of Dunmow by king John. Here is an excellent portrait of a gentleman in a hussar dress, who is said to have accompanied George the First to England.

THE ball room is elegant and superb : the cieling of curious stucco work ; and the whole is neatly gilt, and ornamented with busts, and other rich decorations. It is fifty feet long, and near thirty broad, fronts the north, and has five noble windows. The chimney piece is marble, and of admirable workmanship. The pictures of the late Carew Mildmay, esq. of Hampshire, his uncle, and lady, the present Sir William and his lady are seen here.

In the dressing-room adjoining this, is the picture of William Mildmay, esq. son of Sir Thomas Mildmay, of Barnes. It was taken in the year 1605 ; but is a capital performance. In a smaller dressing-room not far from this, is a picture of the earl of Ancram, colonel of the second regiment of Dragoons, on horseback, attended by a running footman : it is done by Mr. Morier. Contiguous to this in a small closet, there is a miniature painting of

of Salisbury cathedral from a north-east view. It is about the size of a crown, and is the production of a masterly pencil: at the bottom is James Middlecombe, delin.

THERE is a picture of one Sir Henry Mildmay, a branch of this family, representing him as dead and laid out, covered with a black velvet pall. It is said that he died abroad, and that a faithful servant who accompanied him, employed a limner to draw him after his disease. Be that as it will, it is so excellently done as to strike the beholder at first sight with horror; and perhaps for this reason it has been removed from the collection to an anti-chamber.

THE bed chambers upon the first floor are superb, the doors finely carved and gilt, and the furniture of some of them of the neatest damask. On the second floor is a print gallery prettily decorated; on each side of which is a nursery all of stone floors.

THE offices, such as the housekeeper's and steward's room, &c. are under ground, as is the kitchen, which is of stone, and supposed to be one of the best in the kingdom. The stables, &c. are in the front, but at a convenient distance from the house. They consist of two neat uniform buildings and are rather ornamental. As for the situation of the whole, it commands every thing necessary to form a pleasing landscape. It is on a small rise that commands a beautiful vale of pasturage and meadow land, where the Chelmer and Cann unite their streams, and thro' which they afterwards take one friendly course.

Adjoining

Adjoining to it are the gardens neatly laid out; the park is prettily disposed, and on the north side is a large sheet of water. In short it has almost every advantage to render it a commodious house and a delightful country seat. The * building was executed under the direction of Signior Leoni, the famous Italian architect.

WITHIN this hamlet near the river, stood a house of Dominican Friars, of some consequence. Its foundation was antient: and indeed many authors have from this presumed, that it was founded by Malcolm, king of Scotland. But if we can rely upon the late learned bishop Tanner and many other respectable historians, such a conclusion seems inconsistent; as the very name of Malcolm was extinct before this order was known in England. In the reign of Edward the Second, about the year 1320, one Thomas Langford, a Frier of this house, by hard study and perseverance, compiled an universal chronicle from the foundation of the world to his own days. He was likewise the author of several other curious pieces.

THE building was a good one; and being a composition of brick, flint, and free stone, consequently strong. The kitchen remained till within these few years, and was esteemed a great curiosity; the roof being supported and decorated in the manner of the

* We are indebted to the present worthy owner Sir William Mildmay, bart. for the copper-plate of it, which embellishes this work.

theatre in Oxford. The site of it is now called the Friars. At the dissolution it was valued at nine pounds, six shillings and five pence. Anthony Bonvixi obtained a grant of it by patent in the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Henry the Eighth, to him and his heirs for ever. But it came afterwards into the Mildmay family, where it has ever since continued.

In the field called Long-stumps, between Moulsham-hall and Gally-wood common, formerly stood a chapel, which belonged to the abbey of St. Osyth, as it was erected by that house. It was endowed with a great part of the tythes of Moulsham. At the suppression, the chapel, &c. were valued at five pounds per annum, and accordingly let for that sum, to one William Aylenoth. However Henry the Eighth not long after granted, by his royal letters patent, the site of the chapel, with all its appurtenances, and the moiety of the tythes before mentioned, to William Gernon, esq. and his heirs for ever. But Thomas Mildmay, esq. marrying Avice his daughter, the two families became united, and by such union the above were brought into the Mildmay family.

On the right hand side of the road that leads to the metropolis are six alms houses, which face the mansion of their late founder, and their present benefactor. They were founded by Sir Thomas Mildmay, bart. and Anne his wife, for six poor people. Their endowment was granted prior to this by Thomas

Mildmay, esq. grandfather to the above mentioned Sir Thomas, which is evident from the following extract of his will; in which he bequeaths 'twenty
' marks yearly out of his tythes of Terling, to the
' masters, governors, &c. of the free school of
' Chelmsford, to be payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas, whereof two pounds towards finding an
' usher. Six pounds to be divided in equal portions,
' at Easter and Michaelmas, to and amongst six
' aged, and of the poorest people inhabiting in the
' hamlet of Mulsham; three whereof to be men,
' and three women. And the five pounds six shillings and eight pence, being the remaining part
' of the said twenty marks, or thirteen pounds six
' shillings and eight pence, to be laid out in the
' following manner: two pounds to buy an ox or
' bullock, to be distributed amongst the poor people
' of Mulsham on Christmas-eve. And three pounds
' six shillings and eight pence to buy three barrels of
' white herrings, and four cades of red herrings, to
' be distributed amongst the poor people of Moulsham
' and Chelmsforde, the first and second week of clean
' Lent.'

THERE is a provision made, that the heir to this estate for the time being shall have the nomination of the usher, and alms people above mentioned, together with the payment of the stipend of the former (under the inspection of the masters and other governors) and the distribution of the alms to the latter.

HE likewise gave six tenements within the said hamlet

hamlet for the use of six poor people, to be called Beades-folks or Alms-people. The bishop of London for the time being is appointed sole trustee. But the appointment of proper persons to fill these tenements, is vested for ever in the owner, for the time being, of Moulsham-hall. At the time this charity was given, these houses were rented at three pounds six shillings and eight pence.

HOWEVER being inconvenient in point of situation, and many other respects, they were taken down in the year 1758, and in their room six neat brick dwellings were erected in the modern taste, with a row of palafades in the front. The reader will learn the generous author of this charitable action, by the following inscription, which is affixed in the center :

Founded by
THOMAS MILD MAY, ESQ.
of Moulsham-hall

1565.

Rebuilt by
WILLIAM MILD MAY, ESQ.
of Moulsham-hall,
1758.

THE old houses had the following one on a free-stone table.

DEO, TRINO, ET UNI SIT GLORIA.

To the glory of the blessed trinity in unity.

The foundation of Sir THOMAS MILD MAY,
of Moulsham, Bart.

and the lady Anne his wife.

M 2

Beneath,

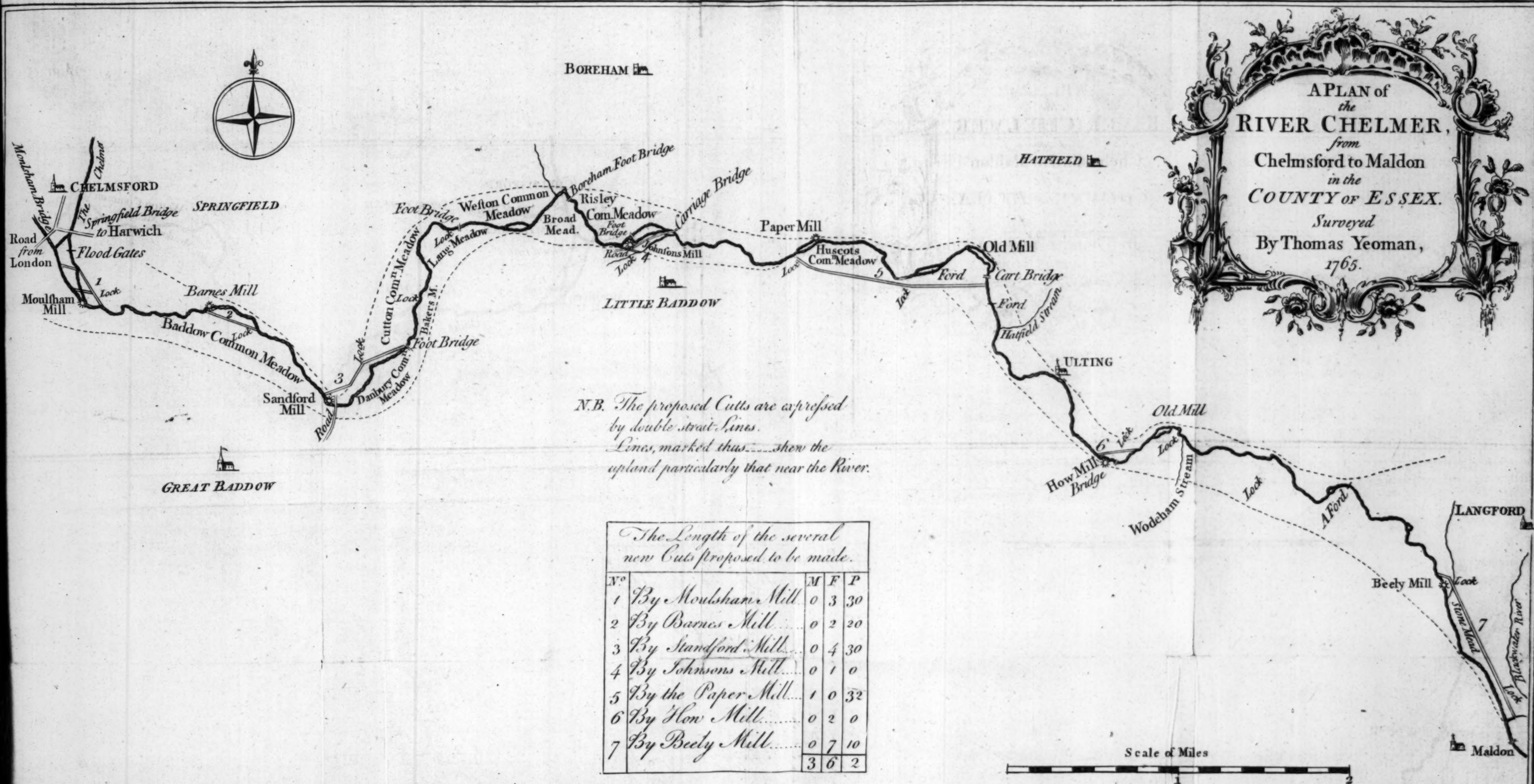
Beneath, was seen a escutcheon of his arms, impaling, puckering: viz. a bend fusilly coticé.

HERE are several plantations of hops by the roadside, which in summer time have a pleasing appearance, and frequently turn out to the considerable advantage of the planters.

THE great road through this hamlet has of late years been very indifferent, on account of it's unevenness: but is now levelled and made much better.

It has been remarked with great propriety by many travellers, that the approach to the town of Chelmsford on this side is much confined; for at the three-want-way where the London, Chelmsford and Billericay roads join, you enter a low, narrow, watry lane, a quarter of a mile long: by which you are deprived of a delightful view of the town and it's neighbourhood. This however has been taken into consideration, and the commissioners have appropriated an adjoining field, for the purposes of making a new road, which is now carrying on under the inspection of Sir William Mildmay, bart. who intends taking the old road into his park which is contiguous, and running a paled fence along it. Moulsham-hall will then be seen to great advantage.

IN the year 1765, a proposal was made to make the river Chelmer navigable from Moulsham bridge adjoining to the town of Chelmsford, to the port of Maldon. An act of parliament was accordingly obtained for that end, and a certain number of commissioners



N.B. The proposed Cuts are expressed by double straight Lines. Lines, marked thus ----- show the upland particularly that near the River.

The Length of the several new Cuts proposed to be made.				
N ^o		M	F	P
1	By Moulsham Mill	0	3	30
2	By Barnes Mill	0	2	20
3	By Sandford Mill	0	4	30
4	By Johnsons Mill	0	1	0
5	By the Paper Mill	1	0	32
6	By How Mill	0	2	0
7	By Beely Mill	0	7	10
		3	6	2

commissioners appointed to see it carried into execution. The necessary works are not yet begun on account of insufficiency of the sums already subscribed: for the act has this clause: 'And be it further enacted, that nothing in this act contained shall extend to empower the said commissioners to erect any lock, or make any cut, for the purpose of the said navigation, until the sum of thirteen thousand pounds shall have been agreed to have been advanced and lent by some person or persons upon the credit of the tolls, to be collected by virtue of this act; and such person or persons, shall have advanced and paid the sum of twenty-five pounds, for every one hundred pounds of the several sums so agreed to be advanced and lent to the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, or to their treasurer or treasurers, and shall have given security to the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, for the payment of the whole sum so agreed to be advanced and lent, at the time or times when the same shall be demanded by the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them.'

We here give the survey and report, made by the encouragers of this navigation, as also their plan, curiously engraven on copper. And when we come to treat of Maldon, we shall then subjoin the survey, plan, &c. given by several gentlemen who strongly opposed it; leaving the reader, after a thorough inspection of the whole, to form his own conjectures.

A SURVEY OF THE RIVER CHELMER, FROM
CHELMSFORD TO MALDON.

BY THOMAS YEOMANS,

SURVEY.

FROM Moulsham bridge in Chelmsford, to Maldon bridge, by the several station lines taken in the survey, is eleven miles, seven furlongs, and twelve poles; but by the river side, when the extreme points or angles are cut off, twelve miles, seven furlongs, and thirty poles. The course of the river may be seen in the plan.

REPORT.

A good navigation might be affected from Chelmsford to Maldon, by making an entire new cut or canal, all the way upon the skirts of the rising grounds, which present themselves alternately on each side near the river; by this method the canal being cut strait, the navigation would be shorter, and more independant of the mills, and free from any obstructions by the rapidity of the stream, in times of great floods; yet as several inconveniences would arise to individual proprietors of lands, by having them cut through for that purpose; it is proposed to make this navigation, by following the course of the river; cutting off the extreme points, and acute angles, that occur in the frequent turns of the stream; and widening

'widening it at the top to thirty feet, and twenty
 'at the bottom, where it is not so already, and
 'making it four feet deep all the way. But as in
 'some places great obstructions appear, by the wind-
 'ings and shallows, it is proposed at such, to make
 'new cuts or canals, with locks to pen up the waters;
 'the several locks to be seventy feet long between
 'gate and gate, and fourteen feet one inch wide at
 'the gates. There must be seven such cuts or ca-
 'nals at the places marked by the figures as referred
 'to in the plan of the river, viz.

No 1. 'A lock with a cut or canal from the great
 'bend below Moulsham mill, up to the bend
 'a little below the flood-gates, which will
 'carry the navigation to Springfield bridge,
 'whilst another cut from the same point into
 'the main river, will carry the navigation up
 'to Moulsham bridge. These two cuts will
 'be three furlongs and thirty poles.

2. 'A strait cut, about two furlongs and twenty
 'poles, to avoid the curve and some shallows
 'near Barne's mill.

3. 'A cut on the north-side of the river, from the
 'great bend below the foot bridge, that goes
 'from Tutton common to Danbury meadow,
 'to be made near the skirts of the hill to
 'Sandford Mill, with a lock to pass the water
 'up to the mill-head; four furlongs thirty
 'poles.

4. 'A cut on the south side of Mr. Johnson's
 'mill, about a furlong, which meets a brook
 'that

‘ that carries off the upland waters. A bridge
‘ may be made over the tail of this lock for a
‘ communication from Badow to Boreham.

5. ‘ A cut on the south side, of one mile and
‘ two furlongs, from Hatfield mill water to a-
‘ bout a furlong above the paper-mill, in which
‘ there must be two locks at the places marked
‘ in the plan, by means of which some of the
‘ most remarkable obstructions and inconveni-
‘ encies of the whole river will be avoided.

6. ‘ A cut of two furlongs on the north side of
‘ the river, to avoid the curve that goes by
‘ How-mill. Under this cut it will be necessary
‘ to have a tunnel to drain off the soak of the
‘ meadows. The lock to be built so as to
‘ make a carriage bridge over it to go to How
‘ mill.

7. ‘ A canal on the north side of the river, of
‘ two miles and thirteen poles, to begin about
‘ a mile above Beely mill, and carried down
‘ to communicate with the brook near the flood
‘ gates or gault, which discharges the land
‘ waters: for altho’ the river near that mill be
‘ large and inviting, it must be deserted, as
‘ the fall from thence is considerable, and great
‘ expence will be required to deepen the bed.
‘ The lock at the lower end of this cut, must
‘ be such as will admit lighters as well as
‘ barges; from which, in bad weather, goods
‘ imported

‘imported may be unloaded into the barges to
 ‘be carried upwards, or goods exported may
 ‘be unloaded from the barges into the lighters,
 ‘when by the roughness or swell of the sea,
 ‘it may be dangerous for the barges to go
 ‘down to the ships. The other lock higher up
 ‘is to divide the great fall of fourteen feet,
 ‘from the beginning of this cut, down to the
 ‘arm of the sea at Maldon.

‘WHEN the works here referred to are accom-
 ‘plished, the navigation will be complete for carry-
 ‘ing barges of thirty tuns each, and by the means of
 ‘the lower lock described in the plan, goods may
 ‘be brought in, or carried out of the river Chelmer,
 ‘from or to the town of Maldon, or from or to
 ‘any ships lying at sea below. The expence of which
 ‘is estimated as followeth.

EXPENCE OF THE NAVIGATION.

	£
One lock near Maldon bridge ——— ———	700
Eight other locks, at 45ol. per each ——— ———	3600
Two running pens or small locks, at 30ol. ——— ———	600
Four carriage bridges, at 15ol. per each ——— ———	600
Four foot bridges, at 15l. ——— ———	60
Between five and six miles of new cut ——— ———	1200
Seven miles scowring, deepening, widening, and cutting } ‘ off the angles ——— ———	700
Thirteen miles of banking, and making good the towing } ‘ path, at 3ol. per mile ——— ———	390
	Carried over 7850

	Brought over, —	7850
' Twenty acres of land to purchase for the new cuts and		
' towing paths, at 30s. per acre, and 30 years		
' purchase — — — — —		900
' Twenty acres of ditto, at 40s. per acre, and 30 years		
' purchase — — — — —		1200
' Tunnels under the navigation — — — — —		300
' Leaps and horse bridges — — — — —		200
' Pumps and pumping of water — — — — —		600
' For drawing down the water — — — — —		100
' Piles and wharfing at the tails of the several locks, &c. — — — — —		350
' Barrows, planks, and other utensils — — — — —		150
' Two navigation barges — — — — —		150
' Surveying, and act of parliament — — — — —		700
' Unforeseen and unexpected expences — — — — —		500
		<u>£ 13000</u>

' It being thus computed that the works to com-
 ' plete the navigation will demand thirteen thousand
 ' pounds, it is proposed to borrow that sum, at
 ' five per cent interest, upon the security of the
 ' tolls, payable at the locks; part of which will be
 ' appropriated to pay the interest, and part be set a-
 ' side, as a sinking fund, to discharge the principal
 ' of the money so borrowed. Besides this, other ex-
 ' pences will be necessary towards maintaining and
 ' supporting the navigation, which may be com-
 ' puted altogether to amount to the annual sums fol-
 ' lowing.

EXPENCES FOR MAINTAINING THE NAVIGATION.

		Per Ann.
' To five per cent. interest on 13000l.	—	650
' To salary to a surveyor	—	40
' To two collectors	—	50
' To a clerk	—	30
		—
		770
' To annually repairs	—	150
		—
' Total	—	920
		—

' As the fund to supply these annual expences must arise from the produce of the tolls, so that produce must depend on the quantity of the goods carried by the navigation. We may nearly compute this quantity in general, by the single article of the quantity of coals, which probably will be brought from Maldon by this river. It appears by the custom house books at Maldon that the following number of chaldons or tons of coals were imported in the three following years, viz.

' In 1760	—	9609
' 1761	—	10983
' 1762	—	12138
		—
' Total	—	32730

' This, upon a medium, is 10873 chaldrons each year imported, under all the disadvantages of the late war. Now as it has been computed, that four out of seven, of all the goods in general imported

' into Maldon, are brought to, or pass through
 ' Chelmsford, to the several parts beyond. So we
 ' may reckon by this proportion, that at least 6000
 ' tons, or chaldrons, of coals are destined for their
 ' consumption; and supposing 4000 tons of other
 ' goods, that are likely to be brought up, or car-
 ' ried down to, or from Maldon, then there will
 ' be a toll to be taken upon 10,000 tons of goods,
 ' navigated upon this river. If therefore the toll
 ' imposed be only two shillings and six pence per
 ' ton, such a toll on 10,000 tons would produce
 ' annually — — — — — £ 1250

' The annual expences of maintaining

' &c. as above — — — — — 920

' Ballance gained — — — — — £ 330

' THIS ballance of 330 pounds, per ann. will
 ' abundantly supply all the deficiencies of the interest
 ' money occasioned by the time it will take up to
 ' execute the several works; and be a fund afterwards
 ' to discharge the principal; and when the naviga-
 ' tion is compleated, we may suppose, that the quan-
 ' tity of goods carried upon it will be encreased,
 ' and consequently the income arising from the tolls
 ' be considerably advanced.

' Now let us consider, the utility and benefit of this
 ' navigation to the inhabitants of the interior parts
 ' of the county, especially to the land-owners and
 ' farmers. This will first arise from the greater
 ' cheapness

cheapness of carriage; for example, the price of land carriage for coals, and all other goods brought by waggons from Maldon to Chelmsford, is eight shillings per tun. Whereas the tunnage and lighterage by water, may be charged at only two shillings a tun; to which adding the toll of two shillings and six pence as above, the price of the whole will be but four shillings and six pence; this will be a saving of near half of what each individual now pays, for every tun of goods he wants; and upon the general quantity of 10,000 tuns will be an annual saving to the public of 1750 pounds.

BUT besides the cheapness of carriage, another advantage will accrue from the conveniency of the mart, both for buying and selling, being nearer to the center of the county: for as Chelmsford will be the meeting place between land and water carriage, from hence, corn, timber, and other products may be conveyed to be exported; as well as coals, chalk, and other necessary goods be brought hither, to supply the demands of the interior parishes. Thus they will be procured in less time, and greater supply be obtained in proportion to the greater facility of bringing them: for by this navigation 30 tuns of goods may be carried by one barge, with two men and four horses, which would require 20 waggons at 1 tun and half per load, with fourscore horses and 40 men; besides the length of time in which the teams are employed in this service, is so much

‘ much lost from the other necessary occupations of husbandry.

‘ HENCE the landed interest will receive a yet greater benefit by the improvements that may be made by chalk and lime, which by being brought by water carriage into the middle of the county, may from thence be carried by teams to the other interior parts at a less distance, in greater quantities and at a cheaper price. The private inconvenience will at the same time be very trifling, as only forty acres will be wanting to be cut and divided, for which ample recompence will be offered both as to the annual value, and the number of years purchase.

‘ LASTLY, the public good will be greatly promoted, by the free intercourse of commerce, being more generally distributed into a greater number of hands: and as all goods to be brought in or carried out by this navigation must be consigned to the port of Maldon, consequently the greater the imports or exports shall be, the greater will be the advantage from the encrease of commissions to the merchants or factors established in that town’.

THE manor of Bexfield is a very ancient one. The mansion house is at the entrance of Galley-wood common, on the right hand side the road that leads from Chelmsford to Billericay. It is partly in the hamlet of Moulsham, and was formerly called Bekeswell; but now commonly Bexfield.

We

WE can trace it so far back, as to find that it was in the possession of one Francis Bathenne in the reign of Edward the Second, from whom it descended to John de Infula of Burglee, knt. who in the reign of Edward the Third, in the year 1334 granted it to Henry de Burgherft, alias Burwash, then bishop of Lincoln (who was lord treasurer, and chancellor of England,) and his heirs for-ever. Upon the death of this prelate, it came to the next heir, his brother Bartholomew lord Burgherft. Upon his succession, an inquisition was taken of it, which described it to contain 'one carucate* of arable land; forty acres 'of wood; eight of meadow; two of pasture; and a 'hundred shillings rent in Chelmsford, holden of the 'abbot of Westminster by the service of four pounds 'yearly'. He procured from Edward the Third a charter of free warren in this manor; but dying in 1355 he was succeeded by his son Bartholomew lord Burgherft, a man of known valor and intrepidity; who attended the above-mentioned monarch abroad in his wars with France. Dugdale informs us, that he became so great a favourite of that prince, as to be made one of the first knights of the garter. Upon his decease in 1369 these possessions came to an only daughter, who married Edward le Depenser. About five years afterward it was enjoyed by Sir Thomas Tyrel, knt. and Alice his wife. Richard the Second in the sixteenth year of his reign granted his royal

* As much land as a plow can till in one year.

licence, empowering John Thurston, Thomas Aston, and Simon Barton, chaplains, to give this manor, and thirty-six shillings and five pence rent in Moulsham and Chelmsford, unto the abbey of Westminster; (the abbot and convent whereof being then lords of the manor of Moulsham aforesaid) by the service of four pounds yearly rent, and suit at the court of the said manor. He likewise by his licence enabled Richard Stoke, clerk, and Thomas Aston, chaplain, to give to the monastery of Westminster, a mill in the hamlet of Moulsham, which was held by the service or annual rent of twenty shillings.

It has been confidently asserted, that this monastery had likewise lands and tenements in this hamlet, which in the days of Edward the Third were in the possession of Roger Bassett, of Sutton. These, however, were never clearly specified; so that we are at a loss to find out which they are. Upon the suppression of these houses the properties and premises of this manor came to the crown; when Henry the Eighth granted them unto Thomas Mildmay, esq. and his heirs for ever.

MILDMAY FAMILY.

THIS honorable family is so antient, as to have been of great consequence in the reign of king Stephen. Their first ancestor, from whom they are derived, was Hugo Mildeme, or Mildme, who lived about the year 1147 and upon his death was succeeded by his son Sir Robert, who was living in

1235 in the time of Henry the Third. He had male issue two sons; Herbert, and Roger, who resided at Hambleton in Lancashire. Roger's successors were Henry, and Ralph; the former of which was seated at Stone house in Gloucestershire 1349. Robert was living in 1401, who married the daughter and heiress of — Le Rous, and had by her a son Thomas, who espoused Margaret, daughter and heiress of John Cornish, of Great Waltham. This seems to have been the first of the family who had any connections in this county. He was succeeded by his son and heir Walter, who came and settled at Writtle, marrying the daughter of — Everard, esq. formerly of Mashbury, but afterwards of Great Waltham; by whom he had two sons, Thomas and John. The former of these we find accumulated very considerable estates here, and was of great consequence.

In the days of Henry the Eighth, at the suppression of the religious houses, he was one of the auditors of the court of augmentations, and purchased of that monarch the manor of Moulsham, &c. as has been before related. He married Agnes, the daughter of — Reade, esq. by whom he had issue four sons and four daughters. The names of the former were Thomas, William, John, and Walter; who afterwards became the heads of many great families:

1. Thomas, seated at Moulsham-hall.
2. William, - - Springfield-Barnes.

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O

3. John

3. John, seated at Cretingham, Suffolk.

4. * Sir Walter, - Apethorp, Northamptonshire.

1. THOMAS, of Moulsham-hall, married Avice, daughter of William Gernon of the city of London, esq. and had by her issue† eight sons, and seven daughters. His eldest son and heir was Sir Thomas Mildmay, who espoused Frances, only daughter of the noble Henry Ratcliff, earl of Sussex, through whom the title and claim to the barony of Fitzwalter, &c. came to the family. Three of her descendants inherited them; viz. Benjamin, summoned to parliament as baron Fitzwalter, February 10, 1669, whose two sons, Charles and Benjamin, severally succeeded him. The latter of these was created earl Fitzwalter, and viscount Harwich, in the year 1730; who dying February 29, 1756, without issue, this first branch became extinct.

2. FROM the second son, William of Springfield-Barnes, is descended the present Sir William Mildmay, bart. to whom the late Benjamin, earl Fitzwalter, devised his estates; in consequence of which he became seated at Moulsham-hall, the grand mansion-house of that family.

3. FROM the third son John, descended Robert Mildmay, of Terling; which branch is likewise totally extinct.

* Sir Walter built Danbury place for his own retirement; but afterwards gave it to his second son, Sir Humphry, who made it the place of his constant residence.

† See the inscription on his monument in Chelmsford church, page 68.

4. THE fourth, Sir Walter Mildmay, married the sister of Sir Francis Walsingham, chief secretary of state; and had by her two sons. He was himself at that time chancellor of the exchequer, and one of queen Elizabeth's privy council, and the worthy founder of Emanuel college in Cambridge. His sons were Sir Anthony and Sir Humphry. To the former of which he bequeathed his estates at Apethorp in Northamptonshire; who was on his embassy from his royal mistress Elizabeth, to the court of France. To the latter he gave his estate at Danbury-place. He likewise left an only daughter, who married the right honorable Francis Fane, then earl of Northumberland. Sir Humphry had two sons, John and Sir Henry; the former of which dying without issue, devised his Danbury estate, by will, to his wife. She married a second husband, Robert Cory, D. D. and had by him one daughter, who was espoused to William Ffytche, esq. father to the present Thomas Ffytche, esq. of Danbury-place. The latter brother, Sir Henry Mildmay, knt. was in the reign of Charles the First, master of the jewel office, &c. He espoused the daughter and heiress of — Holiday, esq. an alderman of the city of London; he had issue Henry Mildmay, esq. of Shawford in Hampshire, father of Holiday Mildmay, who left one only daughter named Lætitia, heiress in the male line of that branch. She intermarried with Humphry, younger son of Carew Hervy Mildmay, of Marks, esq.

who was also descended from William Mildmay, esq. of Springfield Barnes. Their issue were * Carew, Anne, and Catharine; which Anne being espoused to the present Sir William Mildmay, bart. the several branches of that family are in them united.

In the latter end of the reign of James the First, there were nine several families of them in this county, possessed of very large and considerable estates:

Sir Thomas Mildmay, Moulsham-hall, bart.
 Sir Henry Mildmay, Woodham Walter, knt.
 Sir Humphrey Mildmay, Danbury, knt.
 Sir Henry Mildmay, Wanstead, knt.
 Sir Thomas Mildmay, Springfield Barnes, knt.
 Sir Henry Mildmay, Graces, knt.
 Sir Walter Mildmay, Great Badow, knt.
 Carew Hervy Mildmay, Marks.
 Sir Robert Mildmay, Terling, knt.

THE arms of this family are 'argent, three lions rampant, azure'. — The crest is, 'on a wreath a lion rampant, gardant, azure; armed and langued gules'.

By this slight account of the family, it † must appear to be a very antient, and honorable one.

* This accomplished gentleman, who in all probability would have inherited the estates, died a few months ago.

† To have given a very particular description of this ancient family, would have been inconsistent with the plan of this work; the reader is therefore referred for a more minute account, to Dugdale's Baronage, and other books of peerages.

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED. 109

THE capital estates in this town were centered in them, as were the manors of Bishop's-hall, Moulfham, and Bexfield; which (as before related) compose the whole parish of Chelmsford; the presentation to the valuable living of which is likewise vested in them.

CHELMSFORD RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

John Tindal, LL. B.

Benjamin Earl Fitzwalter.

Feb. 13, 1738-9.

at that time.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

TENTHS.

£. 13 2 6

£. 3 2 3

THE present patron, is Sir William Mildmay, bart.

S P R I N G F I E L D

LIES about a mile north-east of the town of Chelmsford, upon a little eminence; the Chelmer serving as a boundary between the two parishes.

THE situation of this little village is pleasant and agreeable; commanding to the westward a pretty rural prospect, and on the other side, the great road, that leads to and from Colchester. It has been

been called by some authors *Campus Aquaticus*, or a field full of springs: the name of it has frequently been changed; sometimes it was called *Springafeld*; at others *Springinghefeld*; however it is now called *Springfield*.

WE find by ancient records, that the chief part of this parish was formerly in the possession of one ——— *Alestan*; but upon the general survey it was found vested in *Ralph Peverel*, who held it by the name of *Springafed*. At the same time the remaining part of it, which had been held by one ——— *Godric*, was possessed by *Robert Gernon*, under the before-mentioned name of *Springinghefeld*: so that the whole centered in these two families.

IT was about the same time divided into the three following manors.

SPRINGFIELD-HALL, (with *Dukes*;) *Springfield-Barnes*; and *Kewton*, otherwise *Cuton-hall*,

THE manor of *New-hall* is likewise partly in this parish.

SPRINGFIELD-HALL is the chief of the three. The mansion-house is about three quarters of a mile north west from the church, upon a pleasant spot, commanding the town of *Chelmsford* and the parish of *Broomfield*, from both which it is divided by the river, which has here a pleasing effect, meandering through a vale beneath.

THIS considerable estate did not long continue in the family of the *Peverels* after the grand survey; for we find soon after that time it came into the possession

of

of the de Bosseviles's, who held it of the honor of the Peverels by the service of two knights fees.

DUGDALE informs us, that queen Maud took that honor from the heirs of William Peverel, and bestowed it on William de Mandeville, earl of Essex: Notwithstanding this, upon strict enquiry we find the estate was promiscuously holden of the honor of Peverel, and of the Earl of Essex; which is confirmed by the inquiries that were afterwards taken.

THE accounts however concerning it are rather dark and erroneous till the reign of Henry the Third, when a grant was made to one Peter Boscville, of a free warren in Springfield; who having two daughters, Sibill and Joane, his coheiresses, divided between them the two knights fees, of which he was possessed here. The former of these married for her first husband one Robert Rumbauld; and upon his decease, Jeffry de Bello Campo, or Beauchamp. The other daughter was espoused to John de Twinsted, from whom the estates here descended to their respective heirs, till the reign of Edward the Second, when William de Goldington obtained Springfield. He was succeeded therein by his son Sir John; who died in possession of this, and half the advowson of the church, in the twelfth year of the reign of the above-mentioned monarch, as appears by the inquiry taken at that time. John his son succeeded him. It continued lineally in this family till 1421; when for want of a nearer heir it came to John Henxtworth, a distant relation.

Not

Not long after this, we find it vested in the ancient family of Tyrrel, of Heron, at East-Horndon in this country.

In the reign of Edward the Fourth, Sir Thomas Tyrrel held it of that monarch in capite, but dying in 1476, it descended to his son Sir Thomas, who at his decease bequeathed it to his son Sir Thomas. Henry Tyrrel, esq. his brother, succeeded to the estate for want of male issue; as likewise to the advowson of the rectory called de Bosworth. From him it lineally descended through a number of owners to the late Sir John Tyrrel, bart. who is succeeded in this estate and others, by two daughters, who are minors. The title is now extinct.

HERE is an estate that goes with Springfield-hall called Deuks, or Dukes, which is derived from a family of that name. The mansion-house is situated at the S. W. corner of the green, almost opposite to the church. It was in the possession of Peter Wendover in the days of Edward the Third, whose daughter and heiress Margaret marrying Richard Deuk, it was centered in him, and from thence took its present name. In the reign of queen Elizabeth we find it in the family of the Tyrrels; for upon an inquisition in 1592, Thomas Tyrrel is recorded to have been in possession not only of the manor of Springfield-hall, but likewise of a farm called Dukes, both of the honor of Bologne: and in this family it has continued ever since.

Spring-

SPRINGFIELD BARNES is the next manor in this parish. The mansion-house of which is agreeably placed near the banks of the river, at a little distance from the road that leads from Chelmsford to Little Badow, and appears to have been of some consequence. This is the manor that was holden at the general survey by Robert de Gernon, as before-mentioned.

THE family of Pese was possessed of it in the reign of Edward the Second, and that of his successor Edward the Third; from whom we trace it into the noble families of Bohun and Bouchier. It went from them to Sir John Lodowic, who died in the twenty-first year of the reign of Henry the Fourth possessed of the same, together with a moiety of the advowson of Springfield, as well as other estates in Chelmsford, Moulsham, and Sandford.

WE next find it in Robert de Chelmesford in the beginning of the reign of Edward the Fourth.

MARGERY, the wife of Sir John Bouchier, knt. (who was daughter and heiress of Richard lord Berners) enjoyed it in 1473; and upon her decease, which was not long after, she was succeeded in these and other possessions by a descendant of the family.

AFTER this it became vested in Coggeshall-abbey, where it must have continued till the suppression. This house had enjoyed a yearly rent from it so far back as in the time of Henry the Fourth: that monarch in the ninth year of his reign granting his royal licence unto Joanna de Bohun, countess of

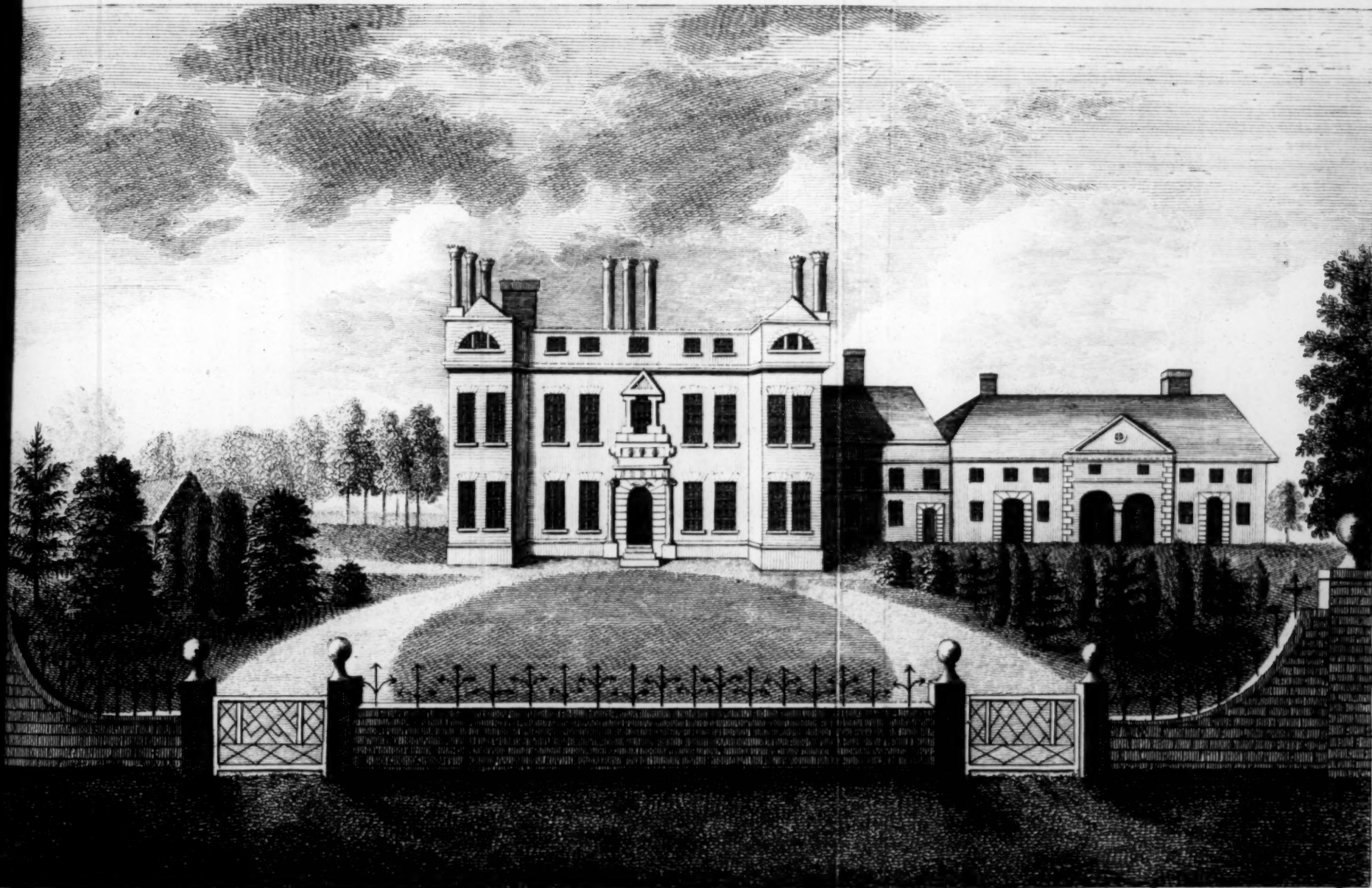
Essex and Hereford; Margaret, wife of Sir Hugh de Badewe, William Bourghier, William Marney, Nicholas Hunt, knts. Robert Rikedon, Edmund Peverel and others, or any two of them, 'to grant unto the abbot and convent of Coggeshall, and their successors for ever, the yearly rent of ten pounds out of two messuages; one fulling mill, two hundred and forty acres of arable, forty-six of pasture, eleven of meadow, and two of woodland, in Springfield and Sandon, called Springfield Barnes; for the maintenance of one monk to pray for the souls of the said Margaret and Thomas Coggeshall.'

EDWARD the Sixth, at the dissolution, gave a grant of this manor to William Mildmay, second son of Thomas Mildmay, of Moulsham-hall, together with Sampford Barnes.

It continued hereditary in this family, till sold by the grandfather of the present Sir William Mildmay, bart. to Robert Bertie, esq. son to Montague earl of Lindsey about the year 1650, and remained in that family for several years. Norries Bertie of Weston-green in Oxfordshire, was the last of the name who enjoyed it; for it was purchased of him by John Porter, esq. alderman of Lime-street ward London, whose executors at his decease sold it to Sir William Mildmay, bart. which brought it back again into that family.

KEWTON, otherwise Cuton-hall is the next manor; which was formerly reckoned part of New-hall.

ON



Custom Hall the Seat of the Late In^o Buck Esq:

ON the south side of the great road to Colchester stands the mansion-house. It was holden by the name of Kyneton-hall by Thomas de Merk, in the reign of Edward the Third, of the right honourable Henry de Bohun, earl of Hereford and Essex. Afterwards it became part of the endowment of Coggeshall abbey; but we are at a loss to know by whom, or when it was given. The crown in course usurped it at the dissolution, and Henry the Eighth granted it, together with the whole site of the afore-said abbey, to Sir Thomas Seymour, knt. Some time afterwards it came again into that monarch's hands, who then gave a grant of it in 1545 to John Paschall; in whose family it continued till near the middle of the last century. It was last purchased by Robert Witham, a vintner of London, who settled it upon Charlotte his wife. He dying without issue, devised it to his widow, who espoused James Ruck, banker; and upon his decease, John Curzon, esq. the present owner.

THESE several manors were formerly dismembered, as appears by the inquisition taken in the seventh year of the reign of Edward the First, when many people had lands, independent of them. Among these we shall only mention Richard de Springe-
 tend, who held a moiety of the church, and other estates exempt from these manors. He was of great note, and took his surname from the place: and one

portion of the living was called Richards, after his christian name.

At the east end of the church is Springfield place; an exceeding good house, rebuilt by the above mentioned Robert Witham, then lord of the manor of Cuton.

THE estate belonging to it is not very considerable: it formerly belonged to Ruke Church; then to the family of the Bridges, and the Capels; after them it was possessed by one Mr. Samuel Fryar, of London; then by the above-mentioned Robert Witham, who rebuilt the house: next to John Strutt, esq. of whom it was purchased by its present owner John St. Leger Douglas, esq. who has at a great expence laid out the gardens and fields adjoining with great taste, and rendered it a commodious handsome residence.

In this parish are some abbey lands. For the abbot of Waltham, in the reign of Edward the First, held a tenement here, by the service of the eleventh part of a knights fee of Philip Burnell. The abbot of Coggeshall likewise had a grant of twenty shillings rent in this parish, in the days of Richard the Second from Roger Ketterich, and Adam Cook. Here were likewise some lands belonging to Thobie priory, which Henry the Eighth granted to cardinal Wolsey, in the seventeenth year of his reign.

THE poor of this parish enjoy several charities and donations.

THEY are entitled to the sum of six pounds, thirteen

teen shillings, and four pence per annum out of the rent arising from three fields in this parish, called Great Perry-field, Little Perry-field, and Millfield. This rent-charge was settled by Robert Peaseley of this parish, yeoman, pursuant to a decree of the high court of chancery, January 25, 1586, upon the Mildmay family (then inhabitants of this place) and other trustees for the poor, under the direction of the then lord high chancellor of England, Sir Thomas Bromley.

BUT Thomas Mildmay, esq. the surviving trustee, in the year 1597, refused to raise any tithing; whereupon the parishioners made application to Sir Thomas Egerton, then lord keeper of the great seal, and obtained from him a decree to oblige him to do it. This is still to be seen with other decrees which remain in the possession of the parishioners, in their common chest.

A HOUSE, orchard, and twelve acres more of land, were left to this parish for the repair and ornament of the church; the overplus of which is to buy firing for the poor. The buildings were taken down by John Strutt, esq.

FORMERLY some cottages belonging to the poor of this parish stood directly in the front of Springfield place, then in the possession of Ruke Church. But in 1623 they were demolished, and the ground applied to the enlargement of the court yard. For which the said Ruke Church bound himself, and his heirs

heirs to pay to the poor of the said parish, the sum of forty shillings annually for ever.

At the back of Springfield place is a dwelling and two acres of land, which were given to the poor of this parish; the house is now converted into a place, for the reception of the most indigent amongst them. Likewise a messuage and orchard, holden of the crown, in the great road: the house has been rebuilt and turned into a workhouse. Here are two acres of land more in this parish, a donation to the poor.

THE church stands at the north end of the village, which, together with the chancel, form but one aisle, tiled. At the end is a brick tower embattled, containing a ring of five bells. When it was rebuilt may be learnt by the following inscription over the fourth window of it:

PRAISE GOD FOR ALL THE GOOD BENEFACTORS. ANO 1586.

ON one of the buttresses which support it, are the arms of the Mildmay family, cut in free stone, with the same date, 1586.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

IN the wall on the right hand the chancel window is a small plain marble monument in the church-yard, to the memory of MR. PHILIP GRETTON, citizen and packer, of London, who died March 20, 1749, aged 22.

Over

OVER the vestry door is a table, recording a donation to the parish as under, in gilt capitals :

Roberte Roberfon, who departed this life the
Fowrthe of March ; ano domini 1619, did by his
Will give fortye powndes, for the erectinge
Of a maine spire, which without great danger
To the steple, and charge to the parishioners
Could not be set up. Wherefore, by the allowance
Of Richarde Freman, and Charles Biglande
Gents, overseers to his said will, therewith was
Repaired the steple and lantron, the belfrie
Enclosed and beautified, and the stairs
There altered and amended. Twelve newe
Pewes in the bodye of the church,
Fowre pewes in the chancell, a pulpett head
A communion table erected, and the
Chancell seated rounde about for
The communicants ; all which worcke
Was done by the appointmente of John
Tansted and William Pinchion
Church wardens ano domini

1624.

SPRINGFIELD RECTORIES.

THIS parish, though it has but one church, consists (and has done from time immemorial) of two separate and distinct portions, or rectories, and been presented to by different patrons. The one is called Springfield Bosville, or Boswells ; the other, Springfield Richards. They were however consolidated and united by the late Dr. Sherlock, bishop of London, at the request of the late Sir John Tyrrel, bart. (then patron of both) and the two rectors, in the year 1753.

INCUM:

INCUMBENTS.

PATRONS.

Springfield Bosville,

Charles Gretton, A. M.

Mrs. Gretton, relict of

March 2, 1746.

Dr. Gretton.

Springfield Richards,

John Woodroffe, A. M.

Sir John Tyrrel, Bart.

January 27, 1747.

at that time.

THE patronage is now annexed to Springfield Dukes; and at present is vested in the Miss Tyrrells, minors, and coheiresses of the late Sir John.

B O R E H A M

IS a village pleasantly situated on the great road to Colchester; it joins to the parish of Springfield, and is distant from London about thirty-two miles; from Chelmsford three.

It derived its name from the Saxons, being composed of two words, which in that language signify a market town; from which we may justly conclude, that it was a place of some importance in those times.

UNDER the Saxon heptarchy, we find this whole parish was holden by fourteen freemen; and afterwards it belonged to Turchill, and Anschill. But at the time of the general survey, it was divided into smaller lots, and possessed by some considerable families.

Doomsday

DOOMSDAY book, which is the most authentic record of these matters, informs us, that it was holden at that time by Eustace the great and noble earl of Bologne; Suene of Essex; and William of Warren.

It was however divided soon after into these six following manors:

Old-hall, New-hall, Culvert's, Walkefare's, Brent-hall, and Porter's.

THE manor of Old-hall was antiently in the possession of the de Borehams; the name of which family was taken from that of the place. It is affirmed, that they spring from Lambert, who is mentioned not only in Domesday-book, but also in many other antient writings, to have been under-tenant here to Eustace earl of Bologne. However it is certain that John de Boreham held in the parishes of Boreham and Badow, one knight's fee of the honor of the said noble earl, in the reign of king John about the year 1211; by whose heirs it was possessed till about the middle of the reign of Henry the Fifth. In the days of Edward the First we find that * Hervey de Boreham was in possession of it about 1275, when it consisted of 'one messuage, one hundred and forty acres of arable, fourteen of meadow, ten of pasture, and four of wood land, with one water mill, and twenty three shillings rent in the parish of Boreham.'

* This gentleman was first praecentor, and then dean of St. Paul's; and in the year 1265 was one of the judges of the court of king's bench.

LEES priory in this county seems to have enjoyed it soon afterwards, as a part of their endowment; but the particulars of the donation, and the time it was made are uncertain. It was let to one Thomas Tendring not long before the suppression for sixteen pounds per annum, by the consent of the prior and whole convent.

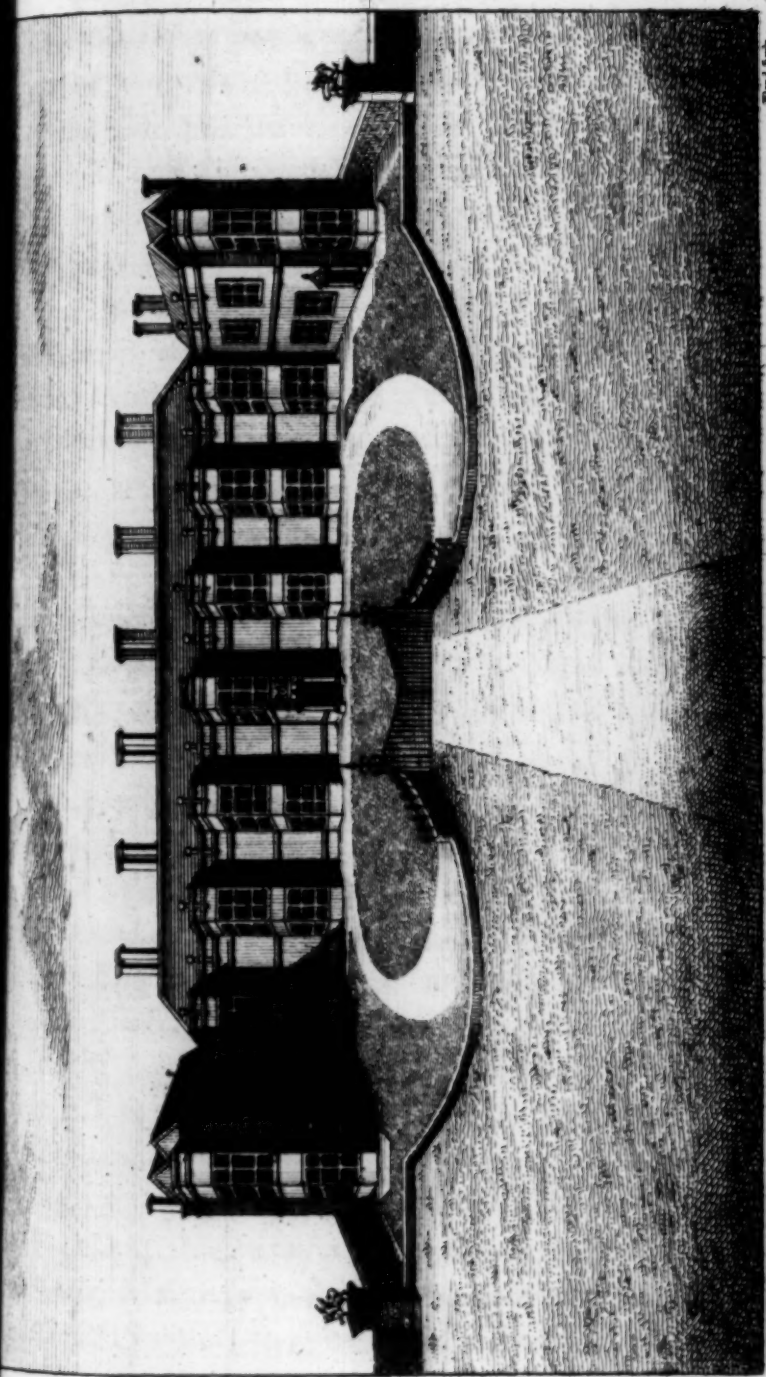
WHEN it came into the hands of Henry the Eighth at the dissolution, he granted it by his gracious letters patent unto Sir Richard Rich, knt. in the year 1537, together with a water mill, and other possessions lying and being in the parish of Boreham.

IN this family it did not long remain; for this Sir. Richard Rich by great interest procured of his majesty the year following the lordship of Bendish-hall in Radwinter in lieu of it. This manor of Old-hall therefore came again to the crown, and there continued till the reign of queen Elizabeth, when Thomas Radcliffe, earl of Suffex obtained a grant of it on the thirty first day of December, 1574.

JOHN OLMIVS, esq. afterwards created baron Waltham of the kingdom of Ireland, purchased it some few years since, and it is now in the possession of his only son and heir Lord Waltham.

NEW-HALL is a very extensive lordship; the name of which was given in contradistinction to that of Old-hall.

It was originally a part of the great possessions of the abbey of Waltham, which enjoyed it till about the twenty-fourth year of the reign of Edward the Third, when



Printed by

NEW HALL, The Seat of The Right Hon^{ble} The Lord WILTHAM.

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when the abbot and convent thereof thought proper to exchange this and some other their possessions with Sir John de Shardelowe, knt. for his manor of Copped-hall, and Shingled-hall, both in Epping.

It does not appear to have continued long here; for Sir Thomas de Shardelowe, knt. granted it with all its appertenances, &c. in Boreham, Springfield, Little Badow, Little Waltham, Bromfield, and Hatfield, unto Sir Henry de Coggeshall, and his Brother Thomas; who came of a very antient family, and had considerable estates in and near that town, from whence they derived their name.

ABOUT the tenth year of Henry the Fifth it ceased to be theirs, and became the joint property of Sir John de Boreham, and some few others. Soon after this division, Sir Walter Hungerford enjoyed two parts of it.

THE whole in a very few years after this seems to have centered in one Richard Alred, who held this manor of Margaret queen of England, and other lands in the parishes of Boreham, Springfield, Little Waltham and Great Lees, called Nobatt's, of Sir John Bourghier and Sir Thomas Tyrrel, knts. who upon his decease was succeeded in them all by his son William, to whom he bequeathed them by will March the 8th, 1446.

It came afterwards to the crown by some accident or another; probably it was forfeited at the time of those desperate struggles, between the houses of York and Lancaster.

IN 1450 the noble family of * Boteler earl of Ormond possessed it. One of whom was so great a favourite of Henry the Seventh as to obtain the royal letters patent to erect walls and towers about it. We are led from hence to conclude that the house was rebuilt by him at this time. He left no male issue, whereupon Sir William Bullen of Norfolk, son and heir of Sir Geoffrey Bullen, lord mayor of London in 1458, marrying the eldest daughter, it came next to him. His son and heir in December 1529 was created earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, and succeeded to this Lordship. He was likewise constituted Lord privy-seal. It can be no wonder that he had all these posts of honor and profit heaped upon him, when we consider that they were granted by Henry the Eighth at a time, when that monarch was the fettered captive of the lady Anne Bullen, (daughter to the above mentioned earl,) who he soon after espoused.

HENRY the Eighth got this manor by exchange in the beginning of his reign with Thomas Bullen earl of Wiltshire. He became so enamoured with the situation, as to give it the name of BEAULIEU (that is, a fair place) tho' according to Camden it never prevailed among the common people. He greatly adorned and beautified it.

He made this the place of his royal residence; and in 1524 kept the feast of St. George here.

* Camden calls them Butler.

The lady Mary his daughter, who was afterwards queen of England, lived here for some years. The crown was possessed of it till the year 1573, when queen Elizabeth granted it on the twenty-eighth of May, to Thomas Radcliff earl of Suffex, with all the honors, buildings, park and demesne lands thereunto belonging. To whom she likewise granted on the thirty first day of December following, all the manors of Boreham, Walkfare, Old hall, &c.

THESE were the rewards he obtained from his royal mistress for the most meritorious actions. He settled this, and other possessions on the heirs male of his body; but having no issue it came to his * brothers, and continued in this noble family till about the year 1620, when Robert earl of Suffex his nephew sold it to the renowned Villiers, duke of Buckingham for thirty thousand pounds. This duke being murdered by Felton on the twenty-third of August, 1628, his son George inherited his title and estates, who in 1648, tho' very young, engaged with the earl of Holland to take up arms in defence of his much injured, and persecuted sovereign, Charles the First. The royalists being defeated at Kingston upon Thames, the parliament voted them all traitors, and enemies to the state; and ordered their estates to be sequestered. He was one among those who experienced the tyranny of this disordered republican government.

* Upon default of issue in them it would have descended to Lady Frances, wife of Sir Thomas Mildmay, and his heirs male.

AT the time when these estates were sold by ordinance, this lordship of New-hall was purchased by Oliver Cromwell, April 2, 1651, for the consideration of five shillings; and, according to Mr. Booth's account, the computed yearly value was one thousand three hundred and nine pounds, twelve shillings, and three pence three farthings.

BUT Hampton court being a situation more agreeable to the wishes of this brave, but falsely deluded commander, he exchanged it for that, paying the difference. After this the estate was sold to three wealthy merchants in London, for eighteen thousand pounds.

AT the glorious restoration it was recovered by the duke of Buckingham, who sold it to George Monk, the happy instrument of restoring monarchy to its wonted splendor, and checking the increase of democratic government. For these his invaluable services to the state, he was created duke of Albermarle, with a pension of seven thousand pounds a year out of the royal revenue. He lived at New-hall in the utmost pomp and grandeur, having every thing that wealth could procure, or fancy invent. Upon his decease in 1669, he was succeed in honors and estate by his son Christopher, who married Elizabeth, eldest daughter to Henry earl of Ogle, son and heir apparent to William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle. The Duke of Albermarle dying at Jamaica in 1688; the estate descended to his wife, on whom he had settled it. She afterwards espoused
Ralph,

Ralph, duke of Montague in 1691: from which time this noble mansion began to decay, growing neglected, and ruinous. Before the death of the Dutcheſs of Montague, Benjamin Hoare, Eſq. youngſt ſon of Sir Richard Hoare, banker and lord mayor of London, in 1713, purchaſed the reverſion of this lordſhip of the heirs thereof, and the eſtates thereunto belonging.

IN 1737 John Olmius, eſq. afterwards created baron Waltham of the kingdom of Ireland, purchaſed the ſeat of New hall, with the gardens and park belonging thereto of the ſaid Benj. Hoare, eſq. but no other part of the lands; for thoſe upon the death of the ſaid Benjamin in 1749 were inherited by his ſon Richard Hoare, eſq. the preſent lord of the manor,

THE late lord Waltham took down a conſiderable part of this great * edifice, yet reſerved ſufficient of it to make a noble and commodious country ſeat for himſelf, to which he added ſeveral new offices.

THE great hall is ſuppoſed to be the nobleſt in the kingdom. Upon the entrance of it the beholder is ſtruck with its amazing grandeur: it is upwards of forty feet high, ninety in length, and fifty wide.

OPPOSITE to the grand entrance, is another door, which formerly led into a ſpacious court: over this are ſeen the arms of Henry the Eighth. They are

* This houſe in it's primitive grandeur muſt have been almoſt the largeſt in the kingdom, as it is confidently ſaid that what is now ſtanding is only one tenth part.

done in basso relievo in free stone, and inimitably executed. The crown is of the most nice, and curious sculpture: the supporters are a dragon, and a greyhound, with crowns over their heads: beneath is the following motto in old characters; (supported by a lyon and a hawk) from which we are led to conclude, that monarch made great additions to this noble building.

HENRICUS REX OCTAVUS, REX INCLIT^{us} ARMIS
MAGNANIMUS STRUXIT HOC OPUS EGREGIUM

[*The magnanimous Henry the Eighth, a king renowned in arms erected
this sumptuous * building.*]

THE ground work of this elegant piece of workmanship is composed of the most delicate foliage: and the whole is enclosed in a frame of stone. The outside of it is embellished with warlike instruments, and military trophies agreeably displayed. It was beautified with the room at the time the present lord came of age. The cieling was richly adorned at that time with curious stucco work, in the center of which are his Lordship's arms; at each end his crest: two other parts of it are adorned with cherubims, represented as supporting the chandeliers. The whole is magnificent and admirably wrought.

THE present right honorable possessor has improved the designs of his father, and is now laying out the

* Alluding to an antient magnificent gateway in one of the courts, from which it is said these arms were taken down and here affixed.

gardens and park with such taste, as to render the situation delightful. He is making a noble sheet of water in the new gardens behind the house, and erected near it an exceeding good green house. He has likewise, at a considerable expence, added to the other buildings a new wing for stables, coach-houses, &c. which being situated near the front, have a very good effect.

THE avenue which leads from the great road to the house is near a mile long, and has double rows of lofty trees on each side. It is reckoned the finest in England, and gives an air of veneration to this desirable and magnificent * mansion.

CULVERT's, is a manor dependent on that of New-hall. The mansion house of which stands in the fields opposite to Old-hall. It is said to have derived its name from Richard de Coleworth, who was in possession of it in the reign of Henry the Third.

AFTERWARDS it was in the Burnel family. Robert Burnel, bishop of Bath and Wells and lord high chancellor of England, holding it in the reign of Edward the First of the honor of Bologne. It continued vested in them till the reign of Edward the Second, when it came to Maud, a sister of Edward lord Burnel, who married John Lovel of Tichmarsh, into whose family this manor came next. But upon his decease she wedded to John de Handlo. This estate, &c. then by some means or other descended to his

* The elegant view of New-hall which adorns this work is the generous present of the noble owner.

heirs, one of which took the surname of Burnell. There being however a failure of the male line in this family in 1420, this lordship, with others which they possessed, returned back to the Lovels; whose posterity, according to all accounts, were unjustly deprived of their lawful inheritance during this time. It continued here till 1485, and at last was possessed by Francis lord Lovel, who was created Viscount Lovel in the year 1482, and in the next year appointed lord chamberlain of the household to Richard the Third. Being a strenuous supporter of that usurping monarch, he attended him to the battle of Bosworth-field in Leicestershire; but after the overthrow and death of his master he flew for an asylum to St. John's abby in Colchester. The baseness of the cause he had embarked in, gave his suspicions the alarm, and drove him further for than refuge he had hitherto sought in vain. He fled therefore to the dutchess of Burgundy. But Stow tells us, coming over again first to Ireland, and then to England in the behalf of Lambert Simnel, he received a wound at the battle of Stoke, in Northamptonshire on the twentieth of June, 1487, which removed all his apprehensions, by depriving him of existence. About two years prior to this, he had been attainted by an ordinance of parliament, Thetford manor and that of Boreham were then particularly granted to John De Vere, earl of Oxford, and his heirs male for ever. Henry the Seventh shewed him this royal act of favor because he was chiefly instrumental

mental in procuring him the crown, and had been a great sufferer in the defence of the house of Lancaster. He died the tenth of March, 1512; but leaving no legitimate issue, it went to Sir Thomas Bullen and his heirs, as well as the advowson of the rectory of Boreham. For Henry the Eighth some months before the decease of the said earl, granted the reversion to the above Sir Thomas by his royal letters patent.

WALKEFARE'S, is a manor usually granted with the foregoing. Where the site was, cannot now be learned; but it was certainly a part of the original endowment of Waltham-abbey. Great part of it is however taken into New-hall-park.

Odo, bishop of Bayeux, and half brother to William the Conqueror, enjoyed it at the time of the general survey, as appears by the antient records.

THE family of the de Walaſar, or Walkfare, took their name from hence: one of which granted five acres of land, with their appertenances lying in Boreham, to the church of the Holy Croſs at Waltham.

It was holden by the Burnel family and their ſeveral deſcendants, as a diſtinct and ſeparate manor from thoſe of Boreham and Culvert's. Upon the attainder however of Francis Lord Lovel it fell to the crown; whereupon Henry the Seventh gave it to John de Vere earl of Oxford, and the reversion of it was granted to Sir Thomas Bullen, by Henry the Eighth, at the ſame time that he obtained that of Culvert's.

BRENT-HALL is a manor that was formerly appendant on Lees priory; but no records whatever are to be met with, by which we can even guess the donor, or time of donation,

IN the account of the value of abbies, we find that one Thomas Tendring obtained a lease of it in 1534 of the prior and convent of this house, for the annual rent of five pounds, six shillings and eight pence.

ALTHOUGH at the desolution of monasteries this came in course with the rest into the hands of the crown, yet it did not long remain there; for Henry the Eighth, in the twenty-ninth year of his reign, granted this manor, together with that of Old-hall, to Sir Richard Rich, as was before mentioned. It was purchased of him on May 15, 1538, by John Tendring, in whose antient family it was vested many years. But for want of an heir it was sold to the late colonel Leighton. Mr. Curtis, of London, is the present possessor.

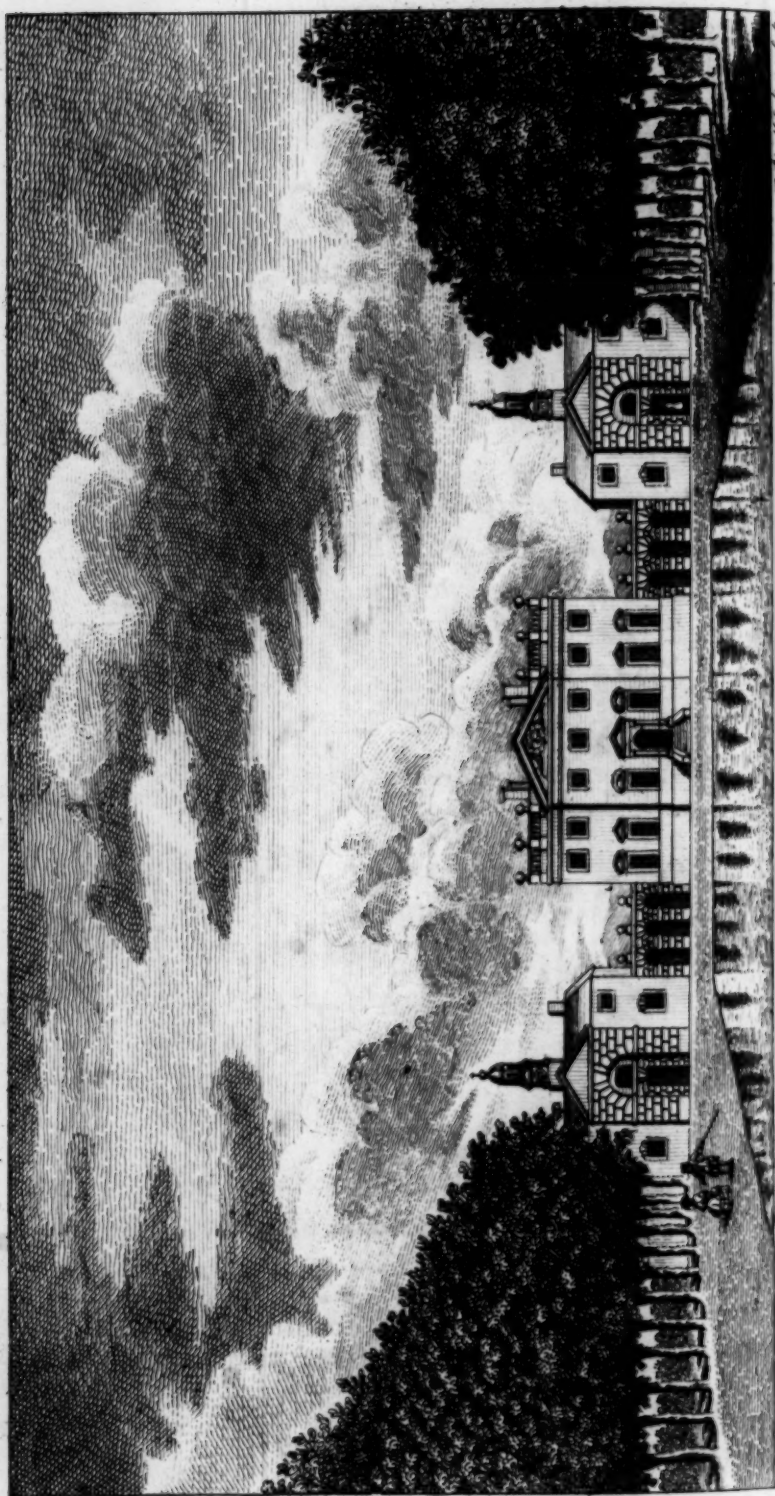
It has a mansion house upon it, on the right hand side the road that leads from Boreham to Little Waltham.

PORTER'S is a maner contiguous to this, and has likewise a mansion house.

It derived it's name from Robert Porter it's possessor, in the reign of Richard the Second. After him it was enjoyed by many, but never remained long in any family till it came to the Hollis's (who purchased

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The Seat of the Bishop's House - Canterbury - Bergham in Chichester

purchased it of Phineas Bowles) and in them it still continues.

On the right hand side the road that leads to Colchester is the seat of Richard Hoare, esq. Banker in London. It is most beautifully situated at the top of an avenue of trees, between which is a fine sheet of water, extending from the road nearly to the house. The house itself is not very large, but of an elegant construction, built of white brick: the inside is adorned with marble chimney pieces, and other decorations, the spoils of the antient mansion of Newhall. The gardens are prettily disposed behind it: from these runs a delightful lawn down to the banks of the Chelmer, which, together with Danbury-hill, and various other beautiful objects that here meet the eye, furnish a most agreeable and enchanting landscape.

THIS parish enjoys several charitable donations.

EDMUND BUTLER, of Boreham, gent. did by a deed indented, bearing date April 20, 1717, vest in trustees therein named, certain lands of his, lying in the parishes of Stow Maries, Cold Norton, Woodham Ferrers, and Purleigh, containing by estimate one hundred and sixty acres of arable and pasture ground, then in the occupation of Thomas Freeman, and in trust, that the said trustees shall dispose of all the issues, rents, and profits of the said premises in and for the educating so many children, male, and female, of Boreham and Little Baddow, (after just charges first deducting) at such school and for such time,

time, or times; and also for the buying and providing for them such books, cloaths, and other necessities, during such time as the aforesaid trustees shall think proper and convenient.

WILLIAM WARD of Boreham, by his will bearing date the fourteenth of April 1652, gave an annuity, or rent charge, for ever, to be issuing out of his manor, messuage, farm, and land called Culvers, in the parish of Boreham aforesaid, amounting to six pounds a year, to be paid to the minister, church-wardens, and overseers of the said parish, or the major part of them, and to be by them laid out in cloathing four poor widows of the said parish, whom they shall chuse; buying every second year for them a gown of russet cloth, and weekly at the said church of Boreham to give unto each of them a four-penny loaf of bread.

HERE is likewise the charity of RICHARD TWEE-
DY, esq. late of this parish, who by will, dated the twenty-third day of January, 1574, ordained that his designs should be carried into execution of erecting four * alms-houses in the parish of Stock, for four poor men to dwell in, two to be chose out of Stock aforesaid, and two out of the parish of Boreham; to each of whom he allows twelve pence a week, eight

* SIR RICHARD EVERARD, bart. on the nineteenth of September 1762, did by his attorney John Sharp, give possession of the alms-houses and gardens in Stock, and the farm called Prentice's, in the parish of Stow-Maries, to the several feoffees named in trust, to perform the charitable meaning, and intent of the said Richard Tweedy, esq.

shillings annually for a livery or cloathing, and convenient fewel; all these to be done at the discretion of his executors, and so to remain for ever. He has also left an annual sum of three pounds, six shillings, and three pence, to the parish of Stock and Boreham aforesaid, to be expended in the reparation of the churches thereof. And to ten men of each parish he ordered at the time of his decease, a gown in which they were to attend him at his funeral.

THE CHURCH stands nearly in the center of the village. It consists of three aysses, and is dedicated to Saint ANDREW.

It is divided from the chancel by a square stone tower, imbattell'd, in which is a ring of six bells. The chancel is large and spacious, of one pace with the rest of the church. Sir Thomas Radcliff, at his own expence, added a fourth ayssle to it, and called it Suffex chapel, making it the place of interment for that noble and heroic family.

ACCORDING to Dugdale's history of St. Paul's, this church was formerly appropriated to that cathedral. But on the twenty-sixth day of June 1292, Edward the First ordained a vicarage here, which was endowed with all the tythes of OLD-HALL, and several other great tythes. Since that time it has constantly been collated to by the diocesan.

THE great and appropriated tythes are now held by lease from the chancellor of St. Paul's.

THE vicarage is situated very near the west end of the

the church on a clean gravelly soil, having a good garden belonging to it, and upwards of twenty acres of glebe contiguous.

MONUMENTS, INSCRIPTIONS, &c.

IN the center ayfle of the church facing the pulpit, is seen a small but neat monument of white marble, with this inscription :

Near this place lieth the Body of

DANIEL COOKE, ESQ.

Late of Dives-Hall in the

Parish of Chignall Smaly

in this County.

Who died 18th of April 1750

Aged 56 Years.

THE following inscription is engraved in brass, and to be seen in the floor of the same ayfle, in antique characters.

Here lyeth the body of Alse Byng,

the Wyfe of Thomas Byng of Cannterbury in the

County of Kent, and Mother to Isaac

Byng, Cytiz'n and Stationer of London

and late Wife of James Cancellor some time one of the Gentlemen of the Queens Honourable Chapple, which also departed this Worlde to the mercy of God the 16th of April 1573.

Isaac, Margaret, Annis, Jane, Mary, Alse.

We fixe h r chyldrene derely bought, by figure doe present

Our woefull hart for losse (of friende) of this our mother deere

But nothing will that sure prevayle, altho' we doe lament.

Yet nature doth procure the same, for this our mother here

Which never thought those thyngs to much, which she on us
had spent

Then blame us not great cause we have, hir death for to lament.

The

Vol.

THE effigies of her and her family are here represented in brass.

PART of the Bramston family are interred in the chancel, as appears by some inscriptions.

WITHIN the communion rails is a stone which will ever perpetuate the memory of the worthy man whose remains it covers; on it is read

Siste viator, et consule.

*Et cum hoc illustre nomen perlegis
Cum hoc Marmore lachrymas effunde.*

Hic jacent periti cineres

THOMÆ MORISII, L. L. B.

Utriusque Academiæ fuit olim flos, et splendor;

Juris Civilis nuper decus, et ornamentum.

Cleri. Angl: orthodoxi deliciæ, ac desiderium.

Fanaticorum Malleus.

Qui prudenti Zelo et arte sagaci

Schismaticam rabiem refrænavit.

Nervosus optimæ Ecclesiæ vindex.

Miserorum asylum.

Subditus inconcussæ fidelitatis

Amicus, in utraque fortuna penitissimus.

Immature sed benigno fato raptus,

E vivis migravit,

Anno æt: 41. Redemp: 1684-5

Thus Englished :

Stop traveller and attend:

And when thou dost survey this illustrious name,

Mourn with this marble.

Here rest the remains of the learned

THOMAS MORRIS, L. L. B.

Who was formerly an honor to both universities,

And lately, a glorious ornament of the civil law;

The darling, and lover of the orthodox church of England,
But the scourge of fanaticism :

Who, by a well-timed zeal, and sagacity,
Checked the poisonous rage of schism.

He was a strenuous supporter of the true church ;
A reliever of the wretched ;

A pattern of unshaken fidelity ;
And a sincere friend, both in prosperity and adversity,
Being summoned (tho' immaturely) by the indulgent fates,
He resigned all further intercourse with humanity

In the year of his age 41,
And of his redemption 1684-5.

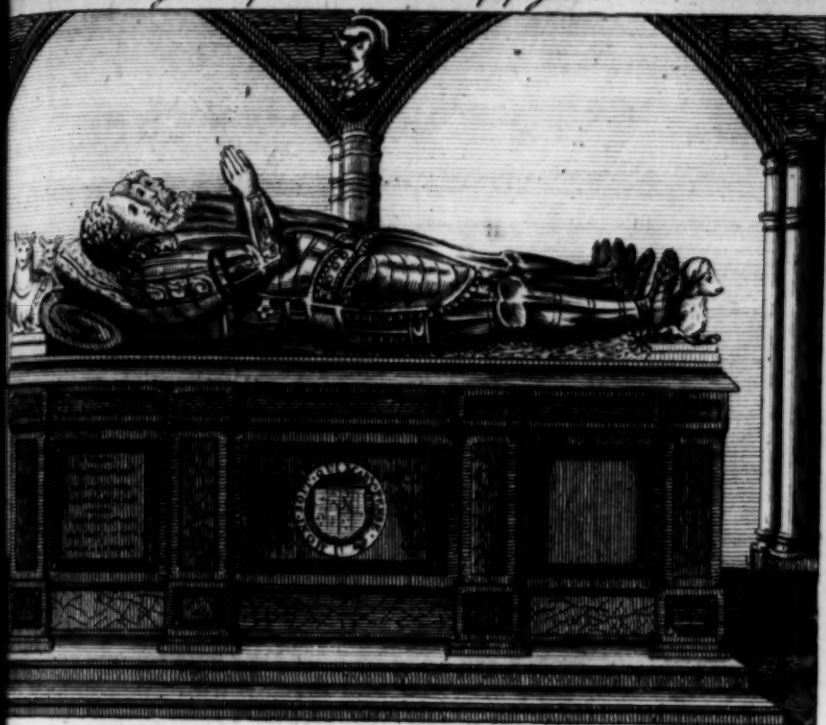
At the top of the stone are seen his arms, with
this motto ; ' NOT MERIT, BUT MERCY.'

THERE are the remains of a most excellent monument in the Suffex chapel, which was erected to perpetuate the memory of the noble, and illustrious family of that name, many of whom are interred in a vault underneath. No one can behold it now, but must lament, that this masterly * performance should have been so violently injured, by being exposed not only to the inclemency of the weather, but to the wantonness of every sacrilegious and violating hand.

As we have here given a plate of it, the reader will want but little information to conceive it's excellencies. The three figures represented are of alabaster, as well as the head, and feet supporters, the pillows, mattrafs, &c. the sculpture of all which is beautiful, and curious.

* According to Newcourt's Repertorium, we find it cost two hundred and ninety-two pounds, twelve shillings, and eight pence when it was erected ; a sum most astonishing for the times, and a proof of it's great value.

Engraved for the new History of Essex.



The Monument of the Sussex Family.



Mausoleum Walthamstow.

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THE three following inscriptions in capitals, allusive to the three worthy personages whose memory they perpetuate, are so nearly engraved on black marble tables, as to represent copper, round which are small elegant borders, of Ægyptian porpyhry.

I.

Beati mortui qui in Domino moriuntur, requiescunt a laboribus suis et opera eorum sequuntur eos.

ROBERTUS RADCLIF miles, comes Suffexiæ, vice comes Fitzwalter, baro de Egremond et de Burnel, eques auratus prænobilis ordinis Garterii, magnus camerarius Angliæ, et camerarius hospitii magni Henrici Regis Octavi, ac eidem e consiliis privatis. Præliis in Gallia commissis, aliquoties inter primos ductores honoratus. In aliis belli, paciæque, consultationibus, non inter postremos habitus. Æquitatis, justitiæ, constantiæ, magnum ætate sua columen. Obiit 27 die Novemb. anno Domini 1542. Ætatis suæ Sepultusq. primo Londini, inde corpus huc translatus ultima voluntate Thomæ comitis Suffexiæ nepotis sui.

Conjuges habuit	{	Elisab. Sororem. Hen : ducis Buckinghamii.
	{	Marg. Sororem comitis Darbei
	{	Mariam Sororem Jo. Arundel Equ :
Elizabethæ filii	{	Georgius patre vivente mortuus.
	{	Henricus prox : comes Suffexiæ.
	{	Humfrei miles
Margaretæ filia	{	Anna, nupta domino Wharton
	{	Margareta, nupta domino Montacute
Mariæ filius	{	Johannes Radclif, Miles.

Thus Englished :

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours, and their works follow them.

ROBERT RADCLIFF, earl of Suffex, viscount Fitzwalter, baron Egremond and Burnel ; an honorable knight of the most noble order of the garter, lord chamberlain of England, and of the hous-

hold to the mighty Henry the Eighth, and one of his privy counsellors.

In the wars in France he distinguished himself among the first leaders; and in all consultations either of war or peace, he was reckoned among the chief. He was the great standard of equity, justice, and fidelity in his time.

He died November 27, 1542, aged He was first buried in London, but his body was removed hither afterwards for interment, at the dying request of Thomas earl of Suffex, his grandson.

He wedded	{ Elizabeth, sister of Henry duke of Buckingham. Marg: sister to the earl of Derby. Mary, sister to Jo. Arundel, knr.
Elizabeth's sons	{ George, who died in the time of his father. Henry, afterwards earl of Suffex. Humphry.
Daughters of Margaret	{ Ann, married to Lord Wharton. Margaret, espoused to Lord Montacute.
Son of Mary	{ John Radcliff, Esq.

II.

Post mortem erit judicium, ac nomina justorum manifestabuntur, et improborum opera patebunt.

HENRICUS RADCLIF, comes Suffexiæ, vice comes Fitzwalter, baro de Egremond et de Burnel, eques auratus prænobiliis ordinis Garterii, capitalis justitiarius, et justitiarius itinerans, omnium foresteriarum, palacorum, chacearum, et warrenarum regiæ majestatis citra Trentam, locum tenens Norfolciæ, et Suffolciæ, et capitaneus generalis exercitus reginæ Mariæ, quo ipsam e tumultu regni auspiciandi vindicavit. Prælis in Gallia confectis, ac aliis legationibus ibidem habitis, cum nobilium principibus aliquoties honoratus. In actionibus belli, pacis que negotiationibus inter primarios habitus. Magnam constantiæ religionis, fideique testimonium, præcipue sub mortem exhibuit.

Obiit 5 die Februarii, anno Domini 1556, Ætatis suæ *

* The reader is begged to observe, that the blanks he here finds of their age, &c. are not filled up upon the monument,

Sepultusque primo Londini; inde corpus huc translatum ultima voluntate Thomæ comitis Suffexiæ filii sui.

Conjuges habuit { Elisab. filiam Tho. Ducis Norfolciæ:
Annam filiam Philippi Caltrop equitis.

Thus Englished :

After death shall be the judgement, when the names of the righteous shall be made manifest, and the actions of the wicked displayed.

HENRY RADCLIFF earl of Suffex, vife. Fitzwalter, baron Egremond, and Burnel, an honorable knight of the most noble order of the garter, chief justice and ranger of all the royal forests, parks, chaces and warrens on this side the Trent, lord lieut. of the counties of Noriolk, and Suffolk, and captain general of the forces of queen Mary (at which time he rescued her from the disorders that affected the beginning of her reign). Upon the conclusion of hostilities in France, and all his embassies there, he was honoured among the chief of the nobility; and in all negotiations both of peace and war, was esteemed one of the first ambassadors.

He ever displayed the most convincing testimony of constancy, religion, and fidelity; more particularly at his departure.

He died the 5th day of February, 1556, aged

He was first interred at London, from whence his body was conveyed hither, at the dying request of his son, Thomas Earl of Suffex.

He espoused { Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas duke of Norfolk.
Ann daughter of Philip Caltrop, knt.

III.

Pretiosa in conspectu domini mors iustorum.

THOMAS RADCLIFF miles, comes Suffexiæ, vicecomes Fitzwalter, baro de Egremond, et de Burnel, eques auratus prænobilis ordinis Garterii, capitalis iusticiarius omnium forestarum, parcorum, chacearum, warennarum regiæ Majestatis citra Trentam. Capitaneus generosorum Pencionariorum et generosorum ad arma. Camerarius hospitii regiæ Elitabethæ, et e consiliis privatis. Duas amplissimas legationes Regina Mariæ ad Imperatorem Carolum quintum

quintum, et regem Hispaniæ; tertiamq̃ serenissimæ reginæ Elisabethæ ad imperatorem Maximilianum obivit. Prorex Hiberniæ, ipsam per annos novem subjugatis rebellibus pacavit, Scotiamq̃ ipsis adhærentem spoliavit. Præses borealis Provin: Angliæ, Perduelles profligavit. Scotiamq̃ ipsis faventem, multis castellas captis dirutisque iterum vastavit. Magno Henrico regi Octavo, heroicæ et ipsius progeniei propagandæ semper fidelissimus. Inviectus animo: semper belloque fortis et felix: Pace consiliarius prudentis: linguarum varietate facundus, vitæ inculpatæ, etc.

Obit 9 die Junii anno Domin 1583 Ætatis 57

Conjuges habuit { Elisab. filiam Tho. Comitiss Southampt.
Franciscam, filiam Gulielmi Sidnei Equitis

Unica filia ex priore uxore, prima infantia mortua.

Heredem reliquit fratrem, Henricum proxime comitem Suffexiæ,

Thus Englished:

The death of the righteous is precious in the sight of the Lord.

THOMAS RADCLIFF, earl of Suffex, viscount Fitzwalter, baron Egremund and Burnel, an honorable knight of the most noble order of the garter, chief justice of all the royal forests, parks, chales and warrens, on this side the Trent, captain general of the gent. pensioners and gent. at arms; lord chamberlain of the household, and privy counsellor to queen Elizabeth. He executed two very considerable embassies from queen Mary to the emperor Charles the Fifth, and king of Spain; and a third from his royal mistress Elizabeth to the emperor Maximillian. He was viceroy in Ireland, and for nine years together suppressed all rising rebellions there, and prevented Scotland from uniting with them. He was governor of the English nothern province, where he routed the rebels, and the Scotch who encouraged them, laying waste their castles, again taking or destroying numbers. He was most faithful to his mighty sovereign Henry the Eighth, and his heroic race. He was possessed of an invincible soul: alike brave and fortunate in the field, and in the cabinet a most prudent counsellor. He was skilled in most languages; and of an uncorrupt life, &c.

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED: 143

He died the 9th day of June 1583 aged 57.

He married } Elizabeth daughter of Thomas earl of Southampton
 } Frances, daughter of William Sidney, kn.

He had one daughter by his former wife, who died in her infancy.

Henry, afterwards earl of Sussex, succeeded him in his titles and estate.

In the vault, which is very neat, are twelve coffins, containing the remains of these personages, and others of this illustrious family. Some of them have inscriptions on one side, and a star and garter on the other. Many are cast in a human shape, with eyes, nose, mouth, &c. The following dates are visible upon six. 1581, 1583, 1593, 1629, 1632, 1643.

This chapel, monument, &c. have for many years been ruinous, and decayed, on account of a difference subsisting, who it belonged to, to preserve and repair them. However Richard Hoare, esq. has lately obtained a faculty to convert the chapel into a place of interment for his family, and is repairing it for that purpose at a considerable expence.

In the church-yard is erected a † Mausoleum for the Waltham family, (built with white brick and stone,) in imitation of the temple of the winds at Athens. The remains of the late Lord Waltham are here deposited. In the front is this inscription cut in free-stone :

MAUSOLEUM
 GENTIS WALTHAMIANÆ.
 MDCC, LXIV.

* The coffins of the Sussex family are placed in one corner of the vault, which is now entirely bricked up.

† See the copper-plate of it,

BOREHAM VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT

PATRON.

Henry Greene,
February 20, 1767.

Bishop of London:

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS

YEARLY TENTHS.

£. 10 3 9

£. 1 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

G R E A T B A D O W

IS situated about two miles from Chelmsford, on the road to Maldon.

It is remarked for being one of the sweetest villages in the kingdom, and for the number of its polite inhabitants. Another parish adjoining to this bears likewise the name of BADOW; and they are only distinguished from each other by the epithet GREAT and LITTLE.

DOMESDAY-BOOK has it BADUNEN or BADUEN; and other antient writings treat of it under the name of BADWAN and BADOEN.

THE derivation of it is certainly from the English monosyllable BAD, and a Saxon word, which signifies a river; alluding to the inconveniency of passing the waters here before a bridge was thrown over them.

IN the time of our Saxon ancestors, this parish composed part of the valuable possessions of Algar the renowned earl of Mercia; who was succeeded therein upon his decease in 1059, by his eldest son earl Eadwine.

A lust

A LUST after power and riches, was the destruction of this valiant Eadwine. At the time of the Norman invasion, he refused to join with king Harold, alledging for an excuse, that he had been deprived of his just share of the spoils taken at the battle of Stamford-bridge. After the fall of this monarch, his ambition urged him to solicit the citizens of London to make him their sovereign. This being refused by them, he submitted to the victorious conqueror, upon conditions that that sovereign should give him his sister in marriage. The king indeed agreed to it at that time of general confusion, but when once he was securely established on the throne, he treated Eadwine with the utmost contempt, and refused to agree to what he had before promised. This so incensed that nobleman, that he flew out into open rebellion, and was slain in an engagement, after having given the most convincing proofs of his bravery, and resolution.

WILLIAM after this step, could not want a pretence for seizing upon his estates, which he accordingly did, and gave this lordship of BADOW, with other valuable possessions, to the monastery of the Holy Trinity, at Caen in Normandy, where it continued some time after the general survey.

HOWEVER it came again to the crown, when Henry the First is supposed to have given it to Robert earl of Gloucester, his natural son, who we find left it to his descendants William earl of Gloucester, and his youngest daughter Maud, wife of the earl of

Chester, who when she founded the priory of Rippingdon in Derbyshire in 1172, endowed it, among other things, with the advowson of this * church.

WE find it afterwards in the family of the earls of Chester and Huntingdon; from them it came by marriage into the family of Bohun, earls of Essex where it continued till the reign of Edward the Third, when it was enjoyed by one Robert de Brus and afterwards by Woodstock earl of Kent.

HOWEVER in 1332 the abovementioned monarch granted this manor with that of Writtle, to Humphrey de Bohun, brother to John earl of Hereford and Essex. His nephew Humphrey earl of Hereford and Essex succeeded him; upon whose decease in 1371 his younger daughter enjoyed it, who marrying Henry earl of Derby (afterwards Henry the Fourth) brought it again to the crown.

IT was incorporated by Henry the Sixth, into his duchy of Lancaster, and left by him to his successors. Henry the Eighth, in the year 1509, settled it upon Catherine of Arragon his queen, which grant was confirmed by a decree of parliament.

IN the reign of Edward the Sixth, it was found vested in the Paschal family. Whether it came to them by purchase, or grant is not certain. But the impropriation and advowson of the living, were bought by one of the family in 1546. This manor continued with them, till one of the daughters and coheiresses of Henry Paschal, esq. of Great Badon

* Called BADEWETUNE at that time.

(who died 1727) married Ralph Verney lord viscount Fermannagh, of the kingdom of Ireland, who then became possessed of it.

JACOB HOUBLON, of Great Hallingbury, esq. purchased it of this nobleman in the year 1736, with whom it still remains.

SIR HUGH's, and SHENGES, is a kind of manor, which derived it's name from it's former lord Sir Hugh de Badewe, of which family it was the very antient and considerable residence. Before their time it had the appellation of MARSCALL's, from its owner of that name.

THERE are now two estates that are called SIR HUGH's, distinguished only by GREAT and LITTLE. They are about a mile out of the village, near the road that leads to West Hanningfield. On the former is an exceeding good mansion house of brick, with noble piazzas in the front. An antique record says, that 'it has fifteen rooms wainscoted, with fish-ponds about it, fit for a gentleman's seat, with two hundred acres of pasture, thirty-three of meadow, and sixteen of wood land.'

THIS manor and estate were formerly holden in petit serjeancy; and its suit and service were remarkable, the possessor being obliged 'to keep the king's palfrey, or saddle-house forty days at the king's charge, whenever he came into these parts; doing suit at the hundred court at Chelmsford every three weeks; and paying six pence to the sheriff's aid.'

ROBERT MARSCALL was the most antient owner we

can trace; who in the year 1211 held one hide in Badew, according to the customs of the above mentioned sergeancy.

It came from these into the Badewe family by marriage, in the reign of Edward the First. In the year 1331, being the fifth of Edward the Third, Edmund Badewe died, and bequeathed it to his son Hugh, who was afterwards knighted, and from whom the estate took its present name, as before observed.

CATHARINE his daughter succeeded him therein; who married the son and heir of Thomas de Naylinghurst of Braintree, a family of considerable consequence. He in course coming to the Badew estate, removed there, and made it's mansion his residence. He had several other very valuable possessions in various parts of this county

THIS family was possessed of it till 1558; when one Robert King held the manor of SHENGES otherwise SIR HUGH'S.

ACCORDING TO Sir Edward Byfshe's visitation of Essex in 1664, this manor was then in William Luckyn, esq. who espoused Margaret, daughter of Thomas Genne, of St. Edmund's Bury, Suffolk; by whom he had issue Sir William Luckyn, bart. of Little Waltham.

It was afterwards purchased by Mr. Darrel, of London, and is now in the possession of Mr. William Prior Johnson.

SEBRIGHT'S-HALL is an estate in this parish, which derived its name from an ancient family, who held it formerly as part of the demesne lands of the lordship of

of Great Baddow, on which there is a capital messuage.

IN the reign of Henry the Second it was vested in William Sebright, who married the only daughter and heiress of Sir Henry de Ashe, knt.

THE Sebright's were possessed of it till the reign of Henry the Eighth, when, for want of heirs male in that family, it came to Edward Aylnoth, esq. upon his marriage with Alice, the daughter and heiress of John Sebright. At the death of this Aylnoth, which happened in 1543, the estate came either by seizure or purchase, to John Paschall, lord of the manor of Great Badow, who possessed it till his decease.

It was next in the Gonson family. Benjamin held it of the said John Paschall, as lord of the manor of Great Badow, which was a lordship paramount to Sebright's. His son Benjamin succeeded him, and afterwards it descended to four sisters coheiresses, according to Mr. Salmon's History of Essex.

THOMAS WILSHAW, esq. enjoyed this estate with its appertinances afterwards, and bequeathed it to his daughter Martha, who married Arthur Wight, attorney, of Guildford in Surrey, at whose death it descended to his grandson and heir Arthur Wight. It was lately possessed by Thomas Pocklington, esq. upon whose decease it came to his widow.

HERE is likewise an estate in this parish called PORTLAND's, formerly the seat of Waltar Mildmay, younger son of Thomas Mildmay of Springfield Barnes, esq. in the reign of James the First.

The

THE church is seated in the middle of the village, and dedicated to the blessed virgin Mary. It consists of three ayles, the center, north, and south; as does the chancel. The building is chiefly of brick, as well as the buttresses and decorations. At the west end stands a square tower of stone, with a spire upon it leaded: It has a peal of six bells. The inside of the church cannot be boasted of: however it has an organ.

THE advowson was given, as before observed, by Maud, daughter of Robert earl of Gloucester, to the priory of Repingdon in Derbyshire, which was confirmed by the royal license of Henry the Third, October 15, 1252.

BEING thus appropriated to that religious house, a vicarage was endowed from it, and the patronage became vested in the prior and convent till the fourth of January 1537; when John Young, the then prior, obtained letters patent from Henry the Eighth to alienate the advowson of it to Francis Bryan.

THE great tythes came to the crown at the surpresion.

EDWARD the Sixth, in the year 1547, gave the tythes and parsonage to Sir Walter Henley, knt. who by license dated the nineteenth of December, in the same year, in conjunction with Clement Smyth, alienated the rectory, church, and the advowson of the vicarage to John Paschall, esq. in whose family it remained a long time.

* The tythes were then valued at 16l. 1s. od. and the parsonage at 8l. 1s. 0 per annum.

JOHN PASCALL, October 12, 1554, sold the parsonage house to John Sammes by licence, for a certain number of lives; and by another licence sold one orchard, with seven acres of arable land, and the tithes of corn and grain appertaining and belonging to the rectory of Great Badow, unto John Brooke; whose descendants held them after his decease.

IN 1732 the advowson of this living was purchased by Mrs. Anne Percivall of Clatford in Wiltshire of the Lord Fermannagh, and granted by her to the Reverend Julius Hering. It was lately vested in the Reverend George Itchener, L. L. B. who dying in 1768 left it to his wife.

THERE were formerly two chantries of great consequence in this church: one of which was founded by Margaret, wife of Thomas Coggeshall, esq. and others, for a priest to sing mass in this church, and also to assist the vicar. The endowment of it at the dissolution was twenty pounds, sixteen shillings, and eight pence, which Edward the Sixth granted in the second year of his reign, with the manor of Springfield-Barnes, and other lands, unto William Mildmay, esq.

THE other chantry was founded by Thomas Kille, (butler to Thomas of Woodstock duke of Gloucester; then to the countess of Hereford; next to Henry the Fifth; and last of all to queen Catherine;) who dying in 1449 was buried in this church.

THIS chantry was dedicated to the honor and glory of the Holy Trinity, and at the time of the suppression

sion was valued at fourteen pounds, thirteen shillings, and four pence.

A FREE CHAPEL stood formerly in this parish dedicated to St. John the Baptist. It was well endowed with lands, tenements, &c. all of which, on the fourth of Sept. 1557, were granted unto John Drake and others, who for some time enjoyed them.

THIS parish has some charitable donations.

MRS. * HELLEN SYDNOR bequeathed to them by will for ever, the sum of two shillings weekly to be expended in bread, and distributed to the most indigent every Sunday.

ROGER REDER gave by will the sum of five pounds a year to the poor of this parish, to be distributed at the discretion of the churchwardens for the time being; and an estate of twenty-five pounds per annum is tied for the constant payment of it.

HERE are alms-houses for five poor inhabitants. They are situated on the left-hand side of the road leading from Chelmsford to the church, but have no endowment.

LIKEWISE some other houses in this parish are appropriated for the use of the poor.

THERE is also a kind of charitable donation arising from the estate of Sir Hugh's.

† See the inscription on her monument.

MONUMENTS, INSCRIPTIONS, &c.

IN the south ayfle is a small monument of white marble, to the memory of two maiden sisters, &c. It is decorated with many different kinds of porphyry, and in the center on a swelling table, is the following inscription:

IN MEMORY

Of MRS. AMY, AND MRS. MARGARET GWYN, maiden sisters;

And of MRS. ANN HESTER ANTRIM, spinster,
beloved by them as a sister,

This monument was erected in the year of our Lord
MDCCLIII.

Having lived eighteen years in a virtuous retirement,

They lie buried together under a grave-stone
Near the pulpit.

Alas! how fleeting is human happiness!

The death of MRS. AMY GWYN, the 19th
of June, 1750, in the 55 year of her age,

FIRST IMPAIRED IT:

The death of MRS. MARGARET GWYN, 21 March,
1752, in the 53 year of her age,

TOTALLY DESTROYED IT;

The death of MRS. ANN HESTER ANTRIM on the
23d July 1752 in the 47 year of her age,
Numbered her with her departed friends.

Their bodies are now sown in the dust

In a state of separation from their souls;

But we hope by the Almighty power of God

In Christ our Saviour,

They will be reunited to them at the last day,

That both may be glorified together.

The Reverend GEORGE ITCHENER, vicar of this parish,

And MR. THOMAS DENHAM, citizen of London,

Ordered this to be completed, agreeable

to the will of the last deceased.

ON a pyramidal table of grey marble above the altar is placed a beautiful female bust, in basso relievo, supported by a boy in a melancholly attitude. At the top are the arms ornamented, with foliages, &c.

A SMALL marble * monument is seen in the body of the church, almost opposite the pulpit, on which is graven :

M. S.

Neere this place lyeth, (wrapped in lead) the body of *HELEN SYDNOR*, one of the daughters of *Thomas Levanthrope*, of *Albury*, in the county of *Hertford*, esq. She departed this life the 11th of *January*, in the year 1651. and gave to the poore of this parish for ever, two shillings weekly, to be distributed in bread every Saboth.

Also neere this place lyeth the body of *dame Elizabeth Hubert*, one other of the daughters of the said *Thomas Levanthrope*, who died in the true faith of *Christ*, in the year of our Lord 1625.

WITHIN the communion rails is a stone to the memory of some part of the † *PASCHALL* family, with the effigies of *Jane*, the wife of *John Paschall*, engraved in brass.

IN the body of the chancel near the vestry door is a stone to the memory of a part of the *EVERARD* family; on which are the following lines in capitals :

* Where this is affixed, is a kind of pulpit, to which you ascend by a flight of stone steps from the chancel. It is supposed to have been erected for the priest of one of the chantries who sung mass.

† The arms of this family are, *Argent*; quarterly, on a plain cross, fable, an *Agnus Dei*, standing, holding a flag, or: 1. and 4. two falcons, fable, beaked and membred or: 2. and 3. a lion, passant, gardant, fable. Their crest is a grave person coupe under the waist; garment purple, faced ermine, crined
 by.

John

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED.

155

JOHN EVERARD his fathers name,
Did beare, who from Much Waltham came.
His mother sprung of FLEMMINGE's race:
His mother's mother GONSON was.
His body sleepes below this stone,
His spirit up to heaven is gone.

Deceased the 27 August
1615.

GREAT BADOW VICARAGE.

* INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Benjamin Pierce A. M. Mrs. Itchener, relict
13th day of Nov. 1768. of Rev. George Itchener,
L. L. B.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS

YEARLY TENTHS.

£. 18 6 8

£. 1 16 8

LITTLE BADOW

IS a parish adjoining to that of GREAT BADOW,
containing five manors or lordships, which were all
at the time of the general survey holden by Ralph
Baynard; Eustace the great earl of Bologne; Ralph,
son of Brien; and Robert Gernon, esq.

These Manors are

- 1 Little Badow-hall.
- 2 Middle mead and Toft's.

* We read in Newcourt's Repertorium, that the celebrated poet Alexander
Barclay was presented to this living by John Paschall, gent. in the year 1546.

U 2

3 Bassiet's.

3 Basset's.

4 Gras's.

5 Rifeham's.

LITTLE BADOW-HALL, is a manor, that in the time of Edward the Confessor was in the possession of one Lewin. Who succeeded him we know not: but at the time of the survey, Ralph Baynard, Lord of Dunmow, enjoyed it. His grandson unfortunately espousing the cause of Helias earl of Maine against Henry the First, lost his whole barony, in which this lordship was included. It was accordingly given by that monarch to * Robert a younger son of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, progenitor of the antient earls of Clare.

It was held by feoffment of him or his son, by Richard de Badew (who took his name from this place) in the reign of Henry the Second.

THE family of the Filiols came next possessed of it, intermarrying with the Badew's, in the time of Henry the Third, in whom it continued till 1349, when John de Bohun of Midhurst in Suffex, marrying Cecily, heiress of this family, it came in course to him. This gentleman distinguished himself greatly in the wars of France, where he attended his royal master Edward the Third; particularly at the battle of Cressy. He was succeeded upon his decease in these possessions, by his son Sir John de Bohun, knt. It continued in the male or female descendants of this

* From this Robert, descended the noble family of Fitzwalter.

family till the reign of Henry the Eighth, when it was in the Southwells; one of whom, by some step or another, alienated these estates to that king; who thereupon granted to Sir Richard Rich this manor of Little Badew, with a water mill and the advowson of the rectory. Sir Richard afterwards exchanged them with his majesty for the manors of Stisted, Lawling, Middleton, and South-Church.

THE crown was possessed of it, till queen Elizabeth granted it by patent to Sir John Smith, together with the advowson of the church in 1572; a gentleman well skilled in all military discipline, and a polite scholar.

In the thirty-eighth year of the reign of the above queen, he obtained her royal license to dispose of it, which he soon afterwards did, with the advowson of the living and other estates, to Anthony Penning, of Kettleberg in Suffolk, esq. who married Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir John Crofts, knt. The Penning's enjoyed it till the twentieth of October, 1652, when it was sold, together with the advowson, to Gobert Barrington of Fitzwalter's in this county, esq. who afterwards had the honor of knighthood conferred upon him. He was a younger son of Sir Thomas Barrington, the second baronet of that antient family. Thomas the eldest son of Sir Gobert would have succeeded him in these, and other possessions; but being distressed for money, he intreated his younger brother Francis to purchase the reversion of them before the death of their father; which proposal

sal was agreed to. Francis, who soon after came in possession of it, was a capital merchant at Tunis, where he made large, and valuable acquisitions. He married the daughter of Samuel Shute, who was sheriff of the city of London in 1681, and who at that time, when our religion and laws were supposed to be in the greatest danger, boldly espoused the Protestant cause; for which commendable zeal, he was very severely fined.

MR. BARRINGTON before his decease, which happened April 17, 1708, resettled this lordship and estate upon his brother and his issue male; and in default thereof to John Shute, esq. first cousin to his wife, and his issue male for ever.

THOMAS BARRINGTON, esq. surviving his brother but about three years, and leaving no child, the estates devolved to John Shute, esq. of the Inner Temple, who afterwards, agreeable to the will of his relation and benefactor, took and used the name and arms of Barrington with the consent of parliament.

THE Shute family is a very antient one, and of Norman extraction. They were settled, and of great consequence in Normandy, when our kings ruled over that duchy. They are handed down to posterity, as men that were ever tenacious of their honor and integrity, serving their princes with unshaken fidelity and resolution, both in the cabinet and the field. Several of them were governors, and commanders of fortresses, and so highly honoured, as to

be in possession of a castle called after their own * name. It is rather uncertain when they first came over into England: but they have been a long time seated in the counties of Cambridge and Leicester. In the reign of queen Elizabeth, one of the family resided at Hockington in Cambridgeshire, who was recorder and member for the town thereof, till 1579, when he was made second baron of the exchequer; and February 8, 1585, one of the judges of the court of king's bench.

In 1711 we find it devolved to John Shute, esq. who in the year 1708 was a commissioner of the customs; and created baron Barrington of Newcastle in the county of Dublin, and viscount Barrington of Ardglass, in the county of Downe. He had likewise at the same time granted to him the reversion of the office of master of the rolls in that kingdom, which was then filled by the Lord Berkeley of Stratton. He represented the town of Berwick upon Tweed in the British senate. With the many other accomplishments that characterized him the gentleman, he possessed a considerable fund of learning, which he displayed in his 'Miscellanea sacra' two volumes, octavo, and his 'Essay on the several dispensations of God to mankind,' &c. Dying December 14, 1734, he left six sons and three daughters.

* The remains of a castle in Normandy were to be seen in the days of Elizabeth, in the windows of which were painted the arms of this family.

ters. * William Wildman, Lord Barrington, his eldest son succeeded him in the title, this and other estates, (who was born in 1717) and still continues to enjoy them.

MIDDLEMEAD or VIDELEWES is a manor which in the days of Edward the Confessor was possessed by one Alwin a freeman. But we find in Domesday-book, that at the general survey after the conquest, it was holden of the then bishop of London by Ralph, son of Brien: not as of the see of that prelate, but as of his own private possessions. It is called in that record Mildemet, and said there to be in the hundred of Witbriçtshern, now called Dengey.

It came after this to bear the several names of Videlew's, Toft's, and Bassett's, from the families who had at different times been possessed of it.

At the time of the survey, we perceive it was only one manor; though afterwards separated and divided into two. For in the sixth year of the reign of Edward the First, Jordan Toft was the owner of one part; which in the days of Edward the Third was vested in Alan Toft. The other moiety was holden at the same time by Henry Bassett. And in the

* His Lordship was several times member for Berwick. In 1746 he was appointed one of the lords of the admiralty. April 1754, he was made master of the great wardrobe, which year he was elected member for Plymouth; where he was re-elected on being constituted secretary at war in 1755. In the same year he was made one of the king's privy counsellors. He was appointed chancellor, and under treasurer of the exchequer, and commissioner of the treasury eighteenth of March, 1761; and is now secretary at war: and one of his present majesty's privy council.

twenty-fourth of Henry the Sixth it was enjoyed by one Roger Bassett.

IN the days of Edward the Second and Third one Robert Vedelin, or Videler, held in Little Badow one fee and a half of Robert then lord Fitzwalter.

IN those of king Richard the Second, it was possessed by Richard Brengre.

THE manor of Tofs in particular was enjoyed in 1469 by one William Toft, gent. from whom it borrowed it's name. Upon his decease the year following, it came to his only daughter Isabella, who wedded Thomas Smith, of Rivenhall, esq. and had issue Sir Clement Smith, of Little Badow, knt. who espoused Dorothy, sister to Edward Seymour, duke of Somerset, by whom he had one son John. In the time of Isabella, the seventh and eighth of Henry the Eighth, this estate was claimed by one Thomas Saul, and sued for accordingly in the high court of chancery. The pretence however seemed illegal and unwarrantable, for a decree was given against him in that court.

THIS estate and lordship continued in the Smith's family till John, afterwards knighted, son and heir of Sir Clement Smith, on April the thirtieth 1596, sold this manor of Middlemead, Badow-hall, and the advowson of the church, to Anthony Pennyng, esq. in whose descendants it continued till it was purchased of his grandson by Gobert Barrington, esq. from whom it descended, with Little Badow-hall, &c. down to the present lord Barrington.

BASSET'S, or VIDELEWE'S, otherwise MIDDLEMEAD, was held by one John de Tayleur in the reign of Edward the First. It went from him to his son and heir. Joane Rawson, the twenty-second of Edward the Fourth was possessed of this manor of Middlemead, holden of the bishop of London, and was succeeded therein by her son. From the Rawsons it came into the family of the Blakes by marriage, where it remained some time.

AFTERWARDS it was vested in the Smyth's and the Pennyns, as were other estates before-mentioned in this parish.

WHEN Henry Pennyns, esq. sold Toft's, &c. to Sir Gobert Barrington, he excepted this manor in the deed of sale, which soon after was purchased by Sir Mondeford Bramston, knt. third son of the lord chief justice of the court of king's bench. It was in the Bramston's till Theodosia, daughter and heiress of George Bramston, L. L. D. was married to Sir Robert Abdy, of Albins, bart. when this manor came to him: it still continues in this antient family.

GRES'S or GRACE'S is a manor near the above-mentioned one, so called from the family of Le Gras, it's primary lords.

IN the time of Edward the Confessor it was held by one Lewin; and upon the survey after the Norman conquest, it was found vested in Eustace, the mighty earl of Bologne.

THE Borehams possessed it soon after, who held it of this earl: for in the thirteenth year of the reign
of

of king John, John de Boreham held in this, and the parish of Boreham one knights fee, as did Robert in the time of Henry the Third hold the manors of Boreham, Little Waltham, and one curacate of land in Little Badow of the honor of Bologne.

JOHN RENGGER soon after possessed it, and was succeeded therein upon his decease by his two sisters Idonea and Cecily, and his niece Joan (daughter of Margery his sister) who was married to John de Quoye. According to the inquisition in the seventh year of Edward the First the manor of Little Badow was to be divided into three equal shares, of which Nicholas de Gras was to enjoy two, and John de Quoye and Joan his wife the other. Nicholas de Gras possessed these till his death, when they descended to his son Ralph, who also died in the twenty-sixth year of the reign of Edward the First (four years after his father) leaving his brother Roger his heir, who lived but about six years after him, at whose decease it came to his son Nicholas.

THE DARCY family were possessed of it next. For from the tenth year of the reign of Henry the Fifth till the eleventh of Henry the Sixth this manor of Gras's in Little Badow was holden by Robert Darcy.

WE find by the Darcy pedigree, that this Robert was younger son of Sir Robert Darcy, of Danbury and Maldon. Roger Darcy, who died the third of September 1508, was possessed of this manor, hold-

ing of the earl of Oxford, as of his manor of Boreham.

NOT long after this it came to the crown, but by what means is not certain.

SIR WALTER HENLY, knight, obtained it of Edward the Sixth upon his first coming to the throne in exchange: that king granted him 'the lordship of Gras's, late a part of the possessions of Sir Thomas Darcy, and the parsonage of Much Badow, valued at seventeen pounds a year, and the tenths at one pound fourteen shillings.'

It was once held of the king in capite in the reign of Edward the Sixth by Sir Clement Smith before mentioned, from whom it fell to his son and heir John.

WE find it afterwards in the Mildmay family. Sir Henry Mildmay, *knt.* grandson of William Mildmay, of Springfield-Barns possessed it: a man of irreproachable honor, and unshaken fidelity. His valor was put to the tryal in the commotions in Ireland, where he distinguished himself by his heroic actions, and gained immortal glory. For his services to his king and country he had the honor of knighthood conferred upon him in the field. He died the ninth of October, 1639, and was interred in the * chancel of Little Badow church. By his first wife Alice, daughter of Sir William Harris, of

* See a further account of this personage under the monuments and inscriptions of this parish.

Cricksea, knt. he had only three daughters; but by his second, Amia daughter of Brampton Gurdon, of Suffolk, esq. he had two sons and a daughter, Henry, Walter, and Elizabeth. The first being his eldest son and heir succeeded to this estate in course; who was five times knight of the shire for the county of Essex; viz. in the three last parliaments of Charles the Second; and the two first of William and Mary. He likewise had two wives; by the former of which he had two daughters, Amia and Ann. His second wife was * Mary, daughter of Robert Mildmay, son and heir apparent of Sir Henry Mildmay, of Moulsham, knt. who brought him four sons; as also four daughters, who were joint heiresses in this estate, viz. Mary, Lucy, Elizabeth, and Frances.

ELIZABETH married Edmund Waterston, esq. and bought the other sisters parts of this † manor, and at her decease left this, and all her other estates to Edmund Fowler, esq. of London, the eldest son of her sister Frances. This gentleman dying July the 25th, 1751, bequeathed it to Frances, his only daughter, who was lately espoused to Sir Brooke Bridges, bart. member for Kent.

* The male descendants of this lady have a just and legal claim to the barony of Fitzwalter; which antient title is at present in abeyance.

† The mansion house on this manor is a noble building. It is approached thro' a very extensive avenue of lofty trees, which give it an heir of great grandeur. It is at present the seat of the right honourable lord Huntingtower.

According

ACCORDING to Newcourt, we learn, that on this manor formerly stood a free chapel, of which the lord was sole patron; but soon after the reformation took place it was desolved.

RIFEHAM's, is a small lordship on the skirts of this parish near Danbury, which scarcely deserves the name of a manor; for we cannot find that any of the tenants are bound to the least suit or service to the lord thereof.

THE most antient possessor we can learn was Goodwin, who enjoyed it in the reign of Edward the Confessor. By a reference to Domesday book we find, that when the general survey was taken, it was vested in Robert Gernon.

IN the reign of Henry the Fifth, Thomas de Coggeshall held it, then known by the name of Rifeham's in Little Badewe; who dying in the tenth year of the same reign was succeeded by his son and heir Richard. This Richard died the eleventh of Henry the Sixth, leaving his sister Elizabeth his heirs.

It was found in Sir Thomas Chirleton, knt. in Edward the Fourth's time, and after his decease in Richard his son a minor, who was afterwards knighted. This gentleman not only possessed the manor of Rifeham's, but also that of Rukholt's in Low-Layton, and of Chobham's in West-ham. But being so far infatuated as to espouse the cause of Richard the Third, he was attainted for high treason on the accession of Henry the Seventh, and accordingly deprived of his estates. That monarch gave all these

Sir John Rysley, knt. March the eleventh 1488, who dying without issue in 1511, they came again to the crown.

HENRY the Eighth, then gave a grant of the manor of Rifeham's, Ruckholt, and Chobham's to William Compton, esq. and his heirs male.

QUEEN ELIZABETH in the thirty-ninth year of her reign had them in her possession, as is evident from the grant she made of them to Thomas Spenser.

It was next in Mr. Thomas Emery, who upon his decease held this manor of Rifeham's, and one hundred and sixty acres of arable, meadow, pasture, and wood land thereunto belonging, in the parishes of Little Badow, and Danbury. Thomas his son and heir succeeded him, then only eleven years old.

AFTER this it was in Mr. Perkins, of Berkshire.

The family of the Clark's were it's next possessors, the descendants of Sir Robert Clarke, one of the barons of the court of exchequer, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, and that of James the First; which family was formerly seated at Pleshey, and some time at Rifeham's. The last possessor of this name was Robert Clarke, esq. who at his decease left it to his eldest daughter Martha, who married the Reverend Charles Phillips, vicar of Terling, to whom this lordship is now in course vested. in this parish are Mortimer's-fee, and Twitty fee, being

* This gentleman was ancestor of the present noble race of the earls of Northampton.

a moiety of upwards of two hundred acres of land in Little Badow, Danbury, Woodham-Walter, and the hamlet of Runsell.

THERE is an alms-house in this parish for two families; situated near the church. Likewise another at Coldham-gate, both which are said to have been charitably founded by Sir Gobert Barrington.

THE poor of Hatfield-Peverell have several parcels of meadow land here, which will be taken more particular notice of, when we treat of that parish.

THE CHURCH is dedicated to the virgin Mary, stands in a vale, and is all of one pace with the chancel. It formerly belonged to Repingdon priory in the county of Derby as before mentioned. At present it consists of a sinecure rectory, and a vicarage; both of which are in the gift of the right honorable the Lord Barrington as lord of the manor of Little Badow-hall. At the west end of the church is a stone tower, in which are three bells.

THE late worthy Mr. Charles Gordon, formerly vicar of this parish, left the sum of one hundred pounds for the improvement of this vicarage, flattering himself that his predecessors, or some other person would give the same sum, and by that means procure queen Ann's royal bounty for small livings; but his desires have not yet been accomplished, as no additional sum is at present given for that laudable purpose.

MONU-

MONUMENTS, INSCRIPTIONS, &c.

On the north side of the communion table is a stately monument, erected to the memory of the renowned warrior HENRY MILD MAY, of GRACE'S. It is a composition of marble, porphyry, and alabaster. He is represented reclining on a pillow under a kind of dome, clad with armour, having a sword by his side and a truncheon in his hand.

In an oval table of black marble is this inscription in gilt letters :

Hic jacet
Henricus Mildmay, de
Grace's, in parochia Badewe,
In comitatu Essexiæ, militis in præ-
sidiis Hiberniæ equestri ordine insigni-
tus. Cui conjux prior Alicia Gulielmi
Harris, Esq. de Crixie in eod. com. gnatatres
Peperet filias, Aliciam Mariam Franciscam,
Posterior Anna Brampton Gordon de Ashing-
ton in com. Suffolciæ Ari filia duos filios
Henricum, & Guialterum gnatamq; unicam Elizabetham,
Obiit die Mercur: Octob. 9, Anno
1639, Æ. Suz 61.

In English :

Here are interred
the Remains of HENRY MILD MAY,
of Grace's in Little Badow,
in the county of Essex.
He was a soldier in the Irish wars,
and their was honoured with the degree of knighthood
in the field.

His former wife was Alicia, the daughter
Of William Harris, of Crixie, kn't.

of the same county.

By whom he had three daughters,

Alice, Mary, and Frances.

The latter was Amia, daughter
of Brampton Gordon, Esq. of Ashington,
in the county of Suffolk,

by whom he had two sons Henry and Walter,
and one only daughter Elizabeth.

He died on Wednesday the ninth day of October,
in the year of our Lord 1639,
aged 61.

Under this is

EQUES AURATUS, well may he be say'd
Whose Coyne, not warlike courage such hath made:
But unto MILD MAY, MILES we afforde
As knighted in the field by his sleight Sworde;
That sword which Tyme shall never sheathe in rust
But hangs it as a * Trophie ore his dust.

SAC: MEM:

Henricô filio THOMÆ MILD MAY,
De Barnes, Equitis.

Sacred to the memory of Henry,
the son of Thomas Mildmay, of Barnes,
knt. &c.

On each side of this table are carved many military trophies and instruments in white marble, which are neatly gilt. — The dome is supported by two elegant pillars of black marble, the entablatures of which are of white, gilt and decorated. At the top are the arms quartered.

* The banners and trophies which were formerly displayed in this church are not now to be seen.

Two female figures are seen devoutly kneeling at the foot of this monument, one representing an elderly lady, with a scarf and hood, the other a young one gorgeously arrayed in the habit of of antient times. The drapery is masterly, and the lace work exceeds description.

THE whole is inclosed within iron pallisadoes, and is so fine a performance as to merit the attention of every curious traveller.

NEAR this is a small monument of white marble to the memory of his lady, and Elizabeth the relict of Edmund Waterston; the former of whom departed this life April 15, 1715, aged seventy-eight years; the latter on the nineteenth day of July 1746, aged eighty-three.

WITHIN the communion rails is a stone with this inscription :

Hic jacet sepultum corpus
HENRICI MILD MAY, armigeri,
De Grace's filii Henrici Mildmay
Militis. Qui hanc vitam reliquit
decimo tertio die Decembris, MDCXCII;
in LXXIII anno Æt. suæ.

Here rest the remains of
HENRY MILD MAY, esq.
Son of the warrior Henry Mildmay,
of Grace's.

He died December 13, 1692.

ON the top of this are the Mildmay arms.
IN this chancel are likewise interred the family of
the Tofts.

In the fourth wall of the body of the church are two niches, wherein are the wooden effigies of two ladies. Tradition says, that they were to perpetuate the memory of two sisters, at whose joint expence the church was erected.

LITTLE BADOW VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

John Steffe, Cl. 3
June 23, 1758. 3

Lord Barrington.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£. 13 0 4

£. 15 0 4.

From the family of the Badewes sprung Dr. Richard de Badew, who resided either in this parish or that of Great Badow. He was the worthy founder of University college where Clare-hall now stands.

S A N D O N

IS a small parish adjoining to that of Little Badow. It was so named by the Saxons on account of it's soil and situation; for the word SANDON, according to their language, signifies a sandy hill.

DOMESDAY-BOOK, and all ancient records are silent concerning it's primary possessors; from whence we may justly infer, at the time of the conquest however, it was a part of the royal possessions.

Not many years after the great survey the family of the Scales were it's Lords, who where descended from the noble Hardwin de Scales, that came over

with

with, and was a distinguished favourite of the Norman conqueror.

FROM these we trace it to William de Cleydon, who in 1328 was possessed of this manor, holding it of the heirs of Aymer de Valence earl of Pembroke as of his castle of Anisby in the county of Hertford, by the service of one knights fee. This noble Aymer de Valence was three times married but left no issue. According to Dugdale, on the twenty-third day of June, 1623, he was inhumanly murdered.

JOHN de Hastings, Elizabeth Comyn, and Jane, countess of Athole, were his next heirs, as being the children of his sister Isabella, wife of John de Hastings, earl of Pembroke. John died in the eighteenth year of the reign of Edward the Second, and gave this estate to his cousin William de Beauchamp, the son of his mother's sister, and younger son of Thomas earl of Warwick.

ABOUT the sixteenth of Richard the Second the manor of SANDON was held by one Thomas Newton.

THOMAS DE COGGESHALL, who died in 1447 held of king Henry the Fifth in capite as of his castle of Dover, by the service of one knight's fee, and an annual rent of ten shillings for castle guards. He was succeeded by Richard his son and heir, who died in the reign of Henry the Sixth, seized of the same, and was succeeded therein by his sister Elizabeth his heir, who was married to Thomas Phillips.

About

ABOUT the year 1470 it was in the family of the Nevilles; Elizabeth Beauchamp marrying Edward Neville a younger son of Ralph earl of Westmoreland. It descended lineally in this family for many years from father to son. However at last it came to the crown.

HENRY the Eighth in the seventeenth year of his reign, gave a grant of it to his then favourite cardinal Wolsey: but upon the attainder of this aspiring nobleman, it again lapsed to the crown.

WE find that Thomas de Tamworth, about the twenty-fifth year of the above-mentioned monarch, held the manor of Sandon of that king in capite, and of his castle of Dover, by the service of one knight's fee.

IN 1564, one John Tamworth obtained a licence to alienate Sandon-hall manor with the appertinances, and other lands and tenements called Birds, Mayes, Little Chamberleynes, Moltes, Heigates, &c. to John Goodey of Braintree in this county. It was purchased of this family in 1583 by Anthony Everard, of Great Waltham, esq. who afterwards had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him. This purchase, with the others he made of the same family, made his possessions here to consist of three messuages, three tofts, three gardens, two hundred acres of arable, seventy of meadow, two hundred of pasture, six of wood, and forty of furze and heath, together with three pounds annual rent in this parish.

SIR ANTHONY dying in the year 1614 was succeeded by Anne his daughter, and only surviving child,

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED,

child, who married Sir William Maynard, knt. and bart. of Little Easton, in this county; who was created an English baron May 30, 1620. By his lady Anne, who was his second wife, he had one son, William, and five daughters. William by indenture dated May 4, 1652, sold this manor and Leperack's to Robert Abdy, esq. for the sum of seven thousand forty five pounds.

THIS Robert was created a baronet of Great Britain June 9, 1660, and by his will, dated April 28, 1670, devised this estate to his son and heir Sir John Abdy, bart.

SIR JOHN sold it to Edmund Wiseman, esq. of London; afterwards Sir Edmund Wiseman, knt.

HENRY *COLLINS, esq. of the Middle Temple, purchased it of him. Henry Lovebond Collins, esq. is the present lord, who lately changed his name by consent of parliament.

SEVERAL parcels of land in this parish continued to be holden of the barony of Scales, as late as down to the year 1616. John Maddisia of Danbury, who died in that year, held the manor of Sandon-hall of the earl of Oxford, as of his barony of Scales and Newsells. He was succeeded by his son Humphry.

THE CHURCH is but small consisting of a body, chancel, and north aisle, all tiled. It is dedicated to

* The arms of this family are a Cheveron charged with three blackbirds, between three plates. On a chief, a griffin conrant, or volant.

St. Andrew. It has a good square tower of brick, in which are five bells.

NEWCOURT says, that this living, which is a rectory, was for a long time vested in the families of the Scales and Gates.

MARY the First in the first year of her reign, granted the advowson thereof to Susannah Tongue, otherwise Clarencieux, widow; who according to tradition presented to it four several times.

THE learned Brian Walton; editor of the Polyglot bible, and one of the greatest ornaments of this nation, was minister of this parish; to the rectory of which he was instituted January 15, 1635. He was deprived of this living, and of St. Martin's Orgar, in London, in the year 1641; but affairs taking a different turn, he was reinstated in both in 1660, and on the second day of December, in the same year, was consecrated Bishop of Chester. He lost his first wife while he resided here. He died the twenty-ninth day of November, 1661, having enjoyed his episcopal see but about eleven months. For a more particular account of this learned divine the reader is referred to *Biographia Britannica*.

ON the south-west side of the church stands the parsonage house, which is a genteel modern building, pleasantly situated. It was new-fronted by the present incumbent, who has spared no expence to make it a comfortable residence.

MONUMENTS, INSCRIPTIONS, &c.

IN the wall adjoining to the rector's pew in the chancel is a small stone table, on which the effigies of a man and woman are represented in brass kneeling, with a table betwixt them; on which lie two books open.

ON a label from the man's mouth are seen these words in old hand:

GOD'S WRATH IS PACIFIED.

FROM the woman's

BY JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED.

AT the bottom is this inscription:

Here lyeth buried the corps of patricke searne Clarke, late parson of the parish of Sandon.

THIS is in the same characters, but the whole is nearly defaced.

NEAR this is a monument to the memory of the wife of Brian Walton, D. D. formerly rector of this parish, on which is this epitaph.

D. O. M.

SACRUM.

In medio cancelli reponuntur mortalitatis
Exuviae Annæ, nuper uxoris BRIANI WALTON, sacrae
Theol. Doct. ac moderni rectoris hujus ecclesiae:
Fæminæ sanctissimis moribus e clara CLAXTONORUM
Familia in comit. Suffolk oriunde; quæ ab æternosa
Hac lachrymarum valle, in cælestem patriam
Emigravit Ferea prima pentacost. Maii 25,
Anno Christi 1640, Ætatis suæ 43.

THE HISTORY OF
In English :

Sacred to the Deity.

In the middle of this chancel are interred
The mortal remains of ANN, late wife of
BRIAN WALTON, D. D.
And rector of this church;
A woman of excellent morals,
And one of the renowned family
Of the CLAXTON's formerly of the county of Suffolk;
She was translated from this vale of misery and tears
Into the region of her heavenly father,
On the first day of pentecost,
May 25th, in the year of our Lord 1640,
And of her age 43.

Likewise beneath is this :

If well to live and well to dye,
If faythe, and hope, and charitye,
May crown a soul in endleis blifs,
Thrice happy her condition is,
Vertuous, modest, goodly, wife,
Pitty flowing from her eyes.
A lovely wyfe, a friend most deare,
Such was shee who now lies here.
Earth hath her body, heaven her soul doth keep,
Her friends the lose, and so she rest a sleepe,
Rest then dear soul till Christ return while wee,
Morne here below and long to come to thee.

Usq̃ quo Domine
Hoc qualicumq; amoris monumento tanto
Vitæ solamine orbatus merens posuit
B. W.

SAN-

SANDON RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

John Lewis, B. D.

Queens College

May 16, 1763.

Cambridge.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

TENTHS.

£. 13 6 1

£. 1 6 8

D A N B U R Y

IS a parish adjoining to that of Little Badow, the name of which signifies a castle or town of the Danes. It seems this was a place of vast importance to those people, before their extensive acquisitions in this kingdom made them look upon themselves as the lords of it. But upon Cnute becoming sovereign master of the whole island, this strong hold was neglected. These parts suffered most by the vast havoc and devastation of the Danish tyrants under the reign of king Alfred.

VARIOUS are the names this place bears in antique records. Some have it Danengebiry, Dannyggebery, Daningbyri, and Danegebury. Whilst others call it Danewbery, Dannebury and DANBURY.

At the time of the Saxon heptarchy one Arling possessed it; but at the grand survey it was vested in Jeffry de Mandeville.

THE particular time is uncertain, but not long after

this, it was divided into the four following distinct manors. 1 St. Clere's; 2 Heyron's alias Hewe's; 3 Bretton; 4 Danbury alias Runsel's. The three first of these derived their names from families who were the respective lords of them.

THERE are now no more than two manors in this parish; St. Clere's and Heyron's; (which both make but one,) and Danbury alias Runsel's.

THE manors of Bicknacre and Giberake extend themselves into some part of this parish. Though the mansion house of the former stands in Woodhamham-Ferrers, and the latter at Purleigh.

ST. CLERE'S and Heyron's were formerly possessed by families of those names as before observed.

THE family de Sancto Claro, or St. Clere, was one of great honor and antiquity in this kingdom, the lord of St. Clere being honored with a high office under William the Norman conqueror, whom he attended over into England. And Hugh de Sancto Claro was one of the witnesses to king Stephen's charter in 1136.

WILLIAM DE ST. CLERE and Ralph de Heyron, had a bill of indictment preferred against them in the thirty-ninth year of Henry the Third, for enjoying knight's fees and not being knighted. This seems to be the first time this family of Heyron is recorded as having possessions in this parish.

WILLIAM DE ST. CLERE had a park at Danbury in the reign of Edward the First, and was sheriff for Essex in the beginning of the reign of that monarch.

The

THE name of this family was metamorphosed in the reign of Henry the Sixth from St. Clare to Senklere, William de * Senklere then living in this county.

THESE estates came next to the De Veres, earls of Oxford, Robert, the fifth lord of that name possessing it. It continued in them till 1398, when it went to the De Greys of Wilton. After them Sir Gerard Braybroke enjoyed it by marriage, espousing one of the daughters of Reginald de Grey, lord of Wilton. However at his death in 1422, it returned again to the Greys.

THE noble family of the Darcies, who came over with William the Conqueror, were it's next possessors. John lord Darcy marrying Margaret youngest daughter of Henry Grey. Robert Darcy, esq. held it, who in 1419 was sheriff of † Essex and Hertfordshire.

AFTER continuing some time in them, it came to the crown, when Edward the Sixth granted them, together with the manors of Little Badow, and Sandon, and the parks of Danbury and Thundersley, late Sir Thomas Darcy's possessions, to William Parr, marquis of Northampton.

THIS nobleman the very same year obtained a license to alienate them to Sir Walter Mildmay, of Apthorpe in the county of Northampton, knt. the fourth son of Thomas Mildmay, esq. of Moultham-

* Their arms are a sun in his glory proper.

† At that time these two counties were governed by one sheriff.

hall. At the decease of this * Sir Walter which happened May 31, 1589, he was succeeded therein by his second son Humphry, who resided at Danbury place, a noble seat erected by his father.

HE married Mary, daughter of Henry Capel, of Hadham in Hertfordshire, esq. and dying in 1613 was interred in Danbury church. He was possessed of very considerable estates in this county, viz. the manor of Cleres, and Herons; Danbury park, together with the advowson of the church: two chantries and one guild belonging thereto. The priory of Bicknacre was likewise his. As were Bower's farm in Woodham-Walter; Cannon Barnes in East Hammingfield: Lords-lands and Stubbers in the parish of Danbury, &c. &c.

HE had one daughter Mary, and five sons Humphry, John, Anthony, Walter, and Sir Henry Mildmay, of Wanstead. At the age of twenty years

* This illustrious personage received his education at Christ's college Cambridge; in which university he founded and endowed a Greek lectureship. He was appointed surveyor of the courts of augmentations in the reign of Henry the Eighth. And in the days of queen Elizabeth he became chancellor of the duchy, likewise chancellor and under treasurer of the exchequer and one of her majesty's privy council. He distinguished himself in 1584 by founding Emmanuel college, in Cambridge, and most liberally endowed it. In 1546 he was honoured with the degree of knighthood. He was returned member for the borough of Maldon in 1552, for the city of Peterborough in 1554, and for the county of Northampton in 1556, and constantly defended the privileges of his constituents by his assiduity and integrity. He married Mary, sister to the famous Sir William Walsingham, by whom he had two sons, Anthony and Humphry; and three daughters, Winifred, Martha, and Christian; the latter of whom espoused Charles Barrett, of Aveley esq; ancestor to the present noble family of the Dacres.

Humphry

Humphry (afterwards knighted) succeeded his father, and served the office of high-sheriff for the county of Essex of Charles the First. From him, they went to his son John, who married a daughter of James Bancroft of the county of Derby, esq. but having no issue by her, the estate was settled on that lady, who afterwards espoused Robert Cory, D. D. rector of this parish and of Margaret Roding, and arch-deacon of Middlesex. They had one daughter Mary, who was married to William Ffytche of Woodham Walter, esq. which brought these and the manor of Fingrith in Blackmore, and Danbury place, into the Ffytche's family. But before his decease John Mildmay sold the demesnes of St. Clere and the advowson of the church to Henry Mildmay of Graces; and from him they descended to his third daughter Elizabeth who married to Edmund Waterfon.

THIS lady at her decease left these, together with all her other estates (as has been before mentioned) to Edmund Fowler, esq. whose only daughter Frances possessed them at his death, the lady of the present Sir Brooke Bridges, bart. member for the county of Kent, in whom they are now vested.

HERE is a mansion house on this manor about half a mile's distance from the church.

BRETTON is a lordship, that in 1360 was in the family of De Bohun, earls of Hereford and Essex. Though now there is no such manor here, and the name of it is totally forgotten among the inhabitants. Not long after this the Darcy family enjoyed it:

In

In the reign of Henry the Fifth Robert Darcy made it a part of the endowment of the three chanteries which he founded here, and three others in All Saints at Maldon. However, upon the suppression of monasteries these were seized by the crown. Henry the Eighth, in 1543, granted this manor of Bretton-hall, with all appertenances in Danbury, together with all the lands and estates lying in various other parishes which belonged to these six chanteries founded in Danbury and Maldon, to Thomas Darcy and his heirs for ever.

In 1546 he obtained a royal license to dispose of them to Anthony Stapleton. Thus far and no further can we trace it.

DANBURY alias RUNSELL's is a subordinate manor to that of Mayland-hall in Dengy hundred, at which court the tenants of Danbury appear to do and perform their several suits and services. It is a hamlet of itself in this parish, and was formerly peculiar to the archiepiscopal see of Canterbury, on which account, in spiritual matters, it was in subjection to the dean of Bocking.

It has a mansion house upon it about a mile from the church.

WHEN it ceased to belong to the church of Canterbury, it came into the Rich family and was sold by Richard earl of Warwick to ——— Western, esq. of Rivenhall in this county, in whose family it still continues; Mrs. Doliff now enjoying it, whose maiden name was Western.

Stodley

STODLEY WOOD, and a farm-house near it in this parish, are part of the possessions of the right honorable lord viscount Barrington.

THE † church stands on the summit of the hill, consisting of a body, north and south ayse, a chancel, &c. and is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The tower at the west end is of stone, on this stands a lofty spire leaded, which is likewise a sea mark. Here is a ring of five bells.

It's situation on so lofty an eminence exposes it more to the rage of thunder, lightning, and storms. The body of the church, and chief part of the chancel were destroyed by tempestuous weather May 24, * 1402. And on the fifth day of February, 1749-50, the top of the spire was set on fire by lightning, which burnt more than twenty feet downwards.

THIS parish is a rectory, which was formerly divided into two moieties or portions by the crown, on account of the fruitfulness of the lands, the great extent of the parish, and the multitude of the parishioners.

ONE of these portions was given to the convent of St. Bartholomew in West Smithfield, by William de Mandeville earl of Essex; at the same time the other was vested in the Darcy family. Each of these presented alternately to the living till May 31, 1440,

† Here the archdeacon of Essex holds his visitation.

* In those times of darkest superstition, the inhabitants confidently asserted, that a diabolical spirit was observed going into the church in the shape and habit of a minorite friar, and there making those ravages and devastations, which were the effects of tempestuous seasons.

when Robert Gilbert then bishop of London consolidated them by consent of both parties; from which time they have formed but one rectory. After the dissolution the sole patronage was given to the Darcies. The advowson now goes with the manor of St. Clere.

IN the third year of the reign of Edward the Second, Robert then abbot of St. John's Colchester, with the concurrence of the convent 'gave a licence to John, son of Simon, and Robert Sir Clere, 'knt. to give all their lands in the parish of Munden, holden of the same abbot's fee, in pure alms, 'to the chapel at Danewebury, for the soule of William de St. Clere.'

THE three perpetual chantries in this parish were without doubt founded by the Darcys, notwithstanding it has been confidently asserted that the Sancto Claros erected them. Two of them were dedicated to the virgin Mary, and the other to John the Baptist.

ALL historians are silent about the site of these religious houses, nor is it to be learnt by any records where they stood. However a great part of them is still remaining, and plainly to be seen by those who are fond of these antique buildings, being after the manner of the abbies and priories.

ONE of them is in the street opposite to the Griffin, now in the occupation of Edmund Barker, adjoining to the church green. The next stands apart from any other building on the north side of the road near the street. The other is on the north

side

side of Horn-row, now a messuage on some lands belonging to Carew Harvey Mildmay, esq. On one side of this last-mentioned chantry the antique church-fashioned windows are still to be seen.

HERE was another chantry in this parish, the founder of which was Richard Waldryan, according to the account of Newcourt.

THE priory of Bicknacre or Bykenacre, founded by Henry the Second for monks of St. Austin, had lands in this parish, being endowed with the manor of Bicknacre, and all it's appertenances.

THERE are several charitable donations to this parish, but most of them are rather trifling. Some parcels of land were however given for the reparation of the church, and then for the relief of such poor people as the trustees should think fit. These lands lie in the parishes of Danbury, Purleigh, Coldnorton and Woodham Walter. John Lannisdale and Margaret his wife were the donors of the lands in Purleigh, as appears by the deed dated in the sixth year of Edward the Second.

THESE lands are now let for twelve pounds ten shillings a year, and are applied to the proper uses according to the intention of the benefactors. The feoffees formerly erected a small alms-house on the south side of Danbury common for two indigent families.

HERE is an exceeding good parsonage house at the west end of the church.

THE village, and in short the whole parish of Danbury is delightfully situated, commanding the most extensive prospect on all sides, where the eye is feasted with various objects. To make the landscape more perfectly beautiful, it has a view of an arm of the sea, where the ships are seen sailing to and from the port and borough town of Maldon.

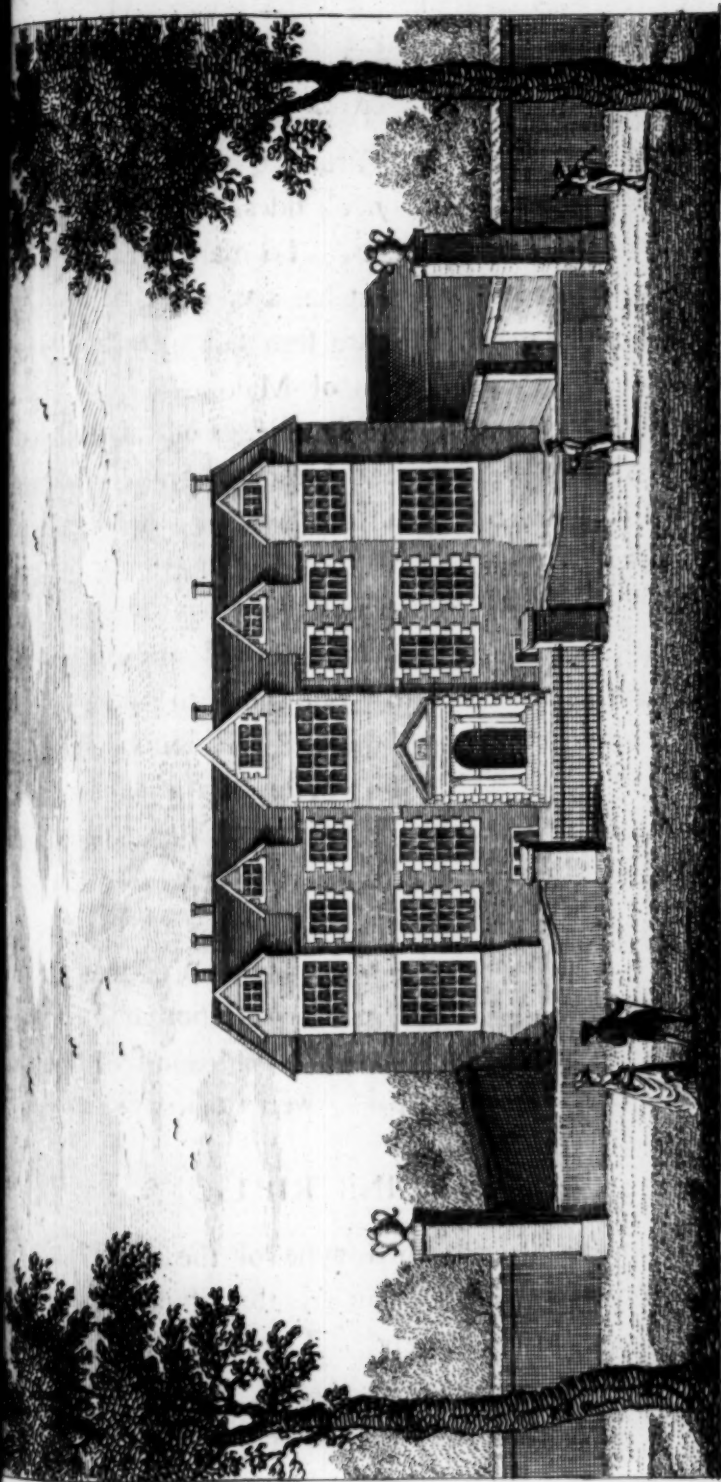
HERE was a very considerable camp at the time when the Danes had obtained a footing in this county, and began to root out the Saxons. It had every advantage by nature from it's situation; and by the glaciſ visible now, which was thirty feet or more, we may conclude that it was strengthened and assisted by art. The alarm beacon stood near to the ground on which the parsonage house is now built: and on the south side of the church, upon the edge of the glaciſ, was a watch-house: the remains of some of the works are still seen, particularly the Danish lines, &c.

DANBURY PLACE is situated about a quarter of a mile from the church; the seat of Thomas Flytche, esq. It is a noble and convenient old mansion-house, round which is a good park, well stocked with deer.

MONUMENTS, INSCRIPTIONS. &c.

IN the wall of the north ayſle of the church are three arches, in each of which is the effigies of a man in armour carved in wood. They are all in a cumbent posture, and cross'd legged, which indicates they were engaged in the crusades or holy wars. If

Mr.



1 June 1840.

Danbury Place the Seat of Thos. Hytche Esq.

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Mr. Weaver's account of them in his funeral monuments is to be relied on, they are the Darcys. But it is more reasonable to imagine they are the Sancto Claros, who were of consequence here from the reign of king Stephen, to that of Edward the Second, when the holy wars were carrying on with great vigour. Whereas the first of the Darcys of Danbury died in 1428, which was near a century and a half after the conclusion of those wars. However these are remarkable curiosities, few such being found in any part of the kingdom, except at the Temple, and not many of those are allowed by judges to be superior to them.

THE curious traveller will be much pleased with a sight of them.

THE following antient inscription is seen in this church in old letters.

Hic jacet Gerardus, quondam filius
Et heres Gerardi Braybroke militis
Qui obiit 29 Marcii, MCCCCXXII.

Here lieth GERARD, late son
and heir of

GERARD BRAYBROKE,
who died March 29, 1422.

Likewise this:

Icy gist PERNE Femme a GERARD
BRAYBROKE, fille a Monsieur REGINALD
DE GREY, Seigneur de WILTON, que mo-
rust 8 iour d'averill l'an de grace
1414, a que Dieu fait mercy,

Here

Here lyeth PERNE the wife of

GERARD BRAYBROKE,

The daughter of REGINALD DE GREY

Lord WILTON,

Who departed this life the 8th morning of April,

In the year of her salvation 1414.

On whom the Lord have mercy.

DANBURY RECTORY.

* INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

William Petvin, A. M. 1746 Elizabeth Waterford

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS. YEARLY TENTHS.

£. 20 0 0

£. 2 0 0.

THE present patron is Sir Brooke Bridges, bart
in right of his wife Frances.

WOODHAM FERRERS,

IS one of the three parishes which have the name of Woodham, and is contiguous to that of Danbury. The situation of these places first gave rise to their present name, they being formerly surrounded on all sides with large woods.

THIS parish is distinguished from the others by the appellation of Ferrers; the name of the noble family who possessed the chief part of it.

DOMESDAY BOOK calls it Udeham; and other ancient records Wood-hame.

* Clemens Vincent, rector of this parish, was in the year 1642 sequestered of it for his loyalty to his sovereign Charles the First.

ONE Bundi enjoyed it before the conquest, but after the grand survey it was vested in the Ferrers.

THE capital manor is Woodham, which was a long time in that family.

THERE are now the five following, viz. those of Woodham, Champeynes, or Champions; Edwards's, Bucklet's Ilgar's and Joye's, and Wickham's alias Wicomb's,

WOODHAM, as before observed, was a part of the possessions of the Ferrers, * Henry de Ferrers, holding it at the time of the general survey. He had three sons, but the two eldest dying before him, he was succeeded by his youngest son Robert, who was created earl of Derby by king Stephen, in 1138, for his unparalleled courage and bravery at the battle of the Standard, in Yorkshire, against David, king of Scotland. He did not enjoy the fruits of his valor long, for he died the next year following, leaving a son Robert to succeed him, who styled himself Robert earl of Ferrers, and a younger earl of Nottingham. His heir was William, his son, who was remarkable for being possessed of seventy-nine knights.

ONE † William earl Ferrers was deprived of this

* He was son of the famous Gualcheline de Ferrers, a Norman lord.

† William, his son and heir, was created earl of Derby in a most solemn manner by king John, in the first year of his reign; a royal charter was provided for that purpose, dated July 7, 1205. And the king with his own hands girt him with a sword: the first who is recorded to have received that honor. He likewise at the same time obtained a grant of the third penny of all pleas holden before the sheriff of the county of Derby, to him and his heirs for ever. See Dugdale's Baronage.

and

and other estates by Richard the First, however this nobleman regained the royal favour, and attended his sovereign to the Holy Land, where he died in 1191 at the siege of Acon.

It seems to have continued in this family till near 1530, altho' one of them demitted his estates in Essex to the bishop of London, and William de Burgh and others.

In the reign of Edward the Second, Henry Ior Ferrers, then twenty-two years of age, possessed the manor of Woodham. He procured in 1338 a charter for a market there every Thursday, and an annual fair on the eve and day of St. Michael, and two days after.

THE De Greys came possessed of it for some little time by a marriage with this family; from whom sprung lady Jane Grey, proclaimed queen of England at the death of Edward the Sixth, but soon afterwards beheaded.

SIR THOMAS AUDLEY baron Walden, had this manor among other estates, who settled it at his decease in 1544 upon his brother Thomas Audely, esq. In this family it remained till about the beginning of this century, when it was purchased of Henry Audley, esq. by Mr. Stuteville of Cambridgeshire.

In 1743 it was sold by Thomas Stuteville, of Newmarket, gent. to Joseph Strutt, of Moulsham-mill esq. who now enjoys it.

CHAMPEYNES, or CHAMPIONS, is a manor so called from a family of that name; William de Champeyn in the year 1356 holding a lordship called Champeyn

peynes in this parish. It was even at that time subser-
vient to that of Woodham, and was held of William
de Ferrers. as of his lordship paramount of Wood-
ham Ferrers.

It continued in the Champions near a century,
when it came to the Ferrers of Groby in Leicester-
shire. Here it remained till 1610, or thereabouts,
when John Ferrers sold it to Paul lord viscount
Bayning. who enjoyed it for his life, as did his son
after him.

THIS Paul lord Bayning compounded for the dis-
afforesting the manor of Champion's, and all his
other lands called Burr's, Joyne's, Prior's, Bridge-
man's, Spurhawk, Downe's, Bushcroft, Greatfield's,
Sherline, Ilgar's, Lachaleyes, &c. being in those days
let at the annual rent of three hundred and thirteen
pounds.

THE manor of Champion's was purchased by Ri-
chard Chase, esq. together with all the demesnes and
appertenances thereunto belonging, which are now
vested in his son Sir Richard Chase, knt. of Hadham
in the county of Hertford, who served the office of
high sheriff for Essex in 1744.

WITHIN this lordship is a messuage, and twelve
acres of land called by the various names of High-
gate's, Heygate's, Haye's, &c. which are part of
the estates appropriated to three reverend preachers
in Colchester by one Henry Bachelor, in the year
1646. These the present lord, Sir Richard Chase,

knt. was pleased generously to enfranchise, on the eighth day of May 1756.

THE manor house is very near the church. The quit-rents amount to nine pounds, three shillings and seven pence half-penny a year.

EDWARD'S is a lordship antiently in the possession of the de Woodham's, a family of great consequence having then very considerable estates in this and many neighbouring parishes.

THIS we likewise find was appendant on the manor of Woodham. For according to the inquisition taken in the latter end of the reign of Henry the Third, "William de Woodham held here of ' William de Ferrers one messuage, two hundred and ' forty acres of arable, four of meadow, and sixteen ' of wood land as of that manor, and purchased it at ' the same time he did that of Champions.

WILLIAM DE WOODHAM, who died the eighth year of Edward the First, held it of the countess of Ferrers (by the service of fifteen shillings annually together with fifty-six acres of arable land of the prior of Bicknacre, besides ten acres of land of William Ayot.

THOMAS his son succeeded him in most of these and died in 1328, leaving a son and heir William who afterwards enjoyed it.

EDWARD DE WOODHAM next possessed it jointly with Agnes his wife; and from him this manor derived the name of Edward's. He died in the fifteenth

fifth year of Richard the Second, leaving John his son and heir.

COLONEL WAKELING afterwards was in possession of it; but the exact time when, we cannot learn.

SIR RICHARD CHASE, knt. is the present lord of it, inheriting it from his father, who purchased it at the same time he did that of Champion's.

HERE is a most venerable mansion-house situated on a pretty eminence about a mile from the church, commanding a very pleasing prospect. The structure still wears the look of majesty and grandeur; and was formerly the seat of a branch of the Mildmay family.

JACKLET'S ILGAR'S and JOYE'S, were formerly small manors that went with that of Champion's. However they are at present in a state of separation from it, being distinct manors of themselves, and as such are vested in James Bonnel, esq. of Upton, in the parish of Westham.

WICKHAM'S or WICOMB'S, is a manor that in the reign of Richard the Second was holden of the duke of Lancaster by William de Dannebery, who had in this parish one messuage, six hundred acres of arable, forty of pasture, twenty of meadow, twenty of wood-land, and six pounds rent, of lord Ferrers, of Groby in Leicestershire.

ANTHONY HIGHAM held it in 1540 of Sir William Parre, as of his manor of North-Fambridge. His son Robert succeeded him.

IN 1571 it was possessed by Stephen Beckingham,

esq. as was also the manor or capital mansion-house, called J yce's. Thomas was his son and heir.

THE next lord of Wickham's we find was Edward Elliot, esq. who had likewise the manor of Margaretting, Newland-hall in Writtle, and the rectory of Norton Mandeville. Upon his departing this life Dec. 26, 1595, Thomas his son and heir came into the possession of them all.

THE Altham family were next in the enjoyment of it, Sir James Altham, knt. being seized of it in 1616. It continued in the male issue of this family till 1630, when Sutton Altham, esq. at his death, (which happened about that time,) for want of issue, was succeeded herein by his two sisters and coheiresses Elizabeth and Frances.

CHARLES TRYON, esq. was next lord thereof on account of his marriage with one of these. A descendant of his, Sir Samuel John Tryon, bart. sold it in the year 1725 to Thomas Inwin, esq. whose only daughter Sarah inherited it from him. She was espoused first to Henry earl of Suffolk, but is now the wife of Lucius lord viscount Falkland, where this manor is at present vested.

EDWIN'S-HALL, about a mile from the church, was a seat built by Edwin Sandys, archbishop of York, from whom it derived its name.

THE hamlet of Bicknacre, or according to some old records, Bitacre, is partly in this parish, and partly in that of Danbury.

ON that part which lies here are still remaining the

ruins

ruins of a priory for black canons, erected and endowed by Maurice Fitz-Geffery, of Tiretai, sheriff of Essex; but the chief burthen of the expence was borne by Henry the Second, according to Bishop Tanner. It was dedicated to the blessed virgin Mary, and John the Baptist.

THE remains of this religious house are seen on the right hand of the road leading from Danbury to Woodham Ferrers. The chapel, which stood at the one end of it is now entirely demolished. Some of the arches of the house are standing at this time, which are lofty and magnificent. It is conjectured, tho' with what degree of certainty we cannot assert, that a considerable part of this priory was built after the dissolution.

THE following are the grants which were made to it at different times.

'KING EDWARD the First in the thirteenth year of his reign, gave leave to the prior of Bicknacre to impark, or inclose, his waste in Woodham Ferrers and Danningebury, being upwards of sixty acres of land. The year following he granted licence to Andrew, de Woodegrie, to give forty acres in East Hanningfield: likewise to John Tollerle and John Turpyne to give thirty acres of arable in Dannbery: to William de Ferrers to give thirty acres in Steple to this prior and convent. Six years afterwards he granted licence to Robert de Mapreshall to give them thirty acres: and to John Langehurst to give them also thirty acres, both

‘ both in this parish : and to John de Malefho to
 ‘ give them thirty acres in Danbury. Richard de
 ‘ Badewe in 1336 obtained license to give them a mes-
 ‘ suage, one carucate of land, eight acres of meadow,
 ‘ and twenty acres of pasture in the parish of Wood-
 ‘ ham Ferrers : as did William Danbery, Adam
 ‘ Mayland, Roger Groome, and Robert Parker, to
 ‘ give them a messuage, thirty acres of arable, one of
 ‘ meadow, and one of wood land in the parish of Dan-
 ‘ bury.’

ABOUT the beginning of the fifteenth century this priory was in a state of the utmost poverty, partly thro’ the inattention of it’s governors, and partly thro’ some unforeseen accidents. At the death of Edmund Goding the * prior in 1506 there was but one monk left in the house, which then became almost generally neglected. The prior and convent of Elsing Spittle, London, taking the advantage of such neglect, petitioned Henry the Seventh to have this priory united, with all it’s lands, &c. to their hospital. His majesty accordingly granted them his royal licence for that purpose, which was put into execution in November following.

BUT a manor belonging to this priory in the parish of Woodham Ferrers, was about the same time annexed to the hospital of St. Mary, of Bethlehem, London.

* See a regular account of the priors belonging to this house in Newcourt’s Repertorium, vol. ii. page 206.

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED. 199

By an inquisition taken after the death of Edmund Goding, the possessions of this monastery were found to be the manor of Bicknacre, and thirty messuages; with about a thousand acres of arable, meadow, and pasture land, and five pounds yearly rent, with a court leet, and view of frankpledge, in the following parishes, viz.

Burnham,	Mayland,
Chelmsford,	Norton,
Danbury,	Purleigh,
Downham,	Stow,
Hanningfield-east,	Steple,
Hanningfield-west,	Woodham Ferrers,

which was then reckoned worth forty pounds ten shillings a year.

UPON the dissolution of religious houses, Henry the Eighth, on the third day of Februaay, 1539, granted the site of this house, with the manor and all it's appertenances to Henry Polsted, and his heirs for ever.

ON September 20, 1548, the above mentioned Henry Polsted sold this manor of Bicknacre to Sir Walter Mildmay, whose Sir grandson Humphry of Danbury place, and George Duncomb, esq. sold it to Gobert Barrington, esq. of Little Badow. It has passed together with the rest of the estates in that family, and is now in the possession of Lord Viscount Barrington.

Here

HERE was an hermitage before the founding of the priory of Bicknacre, which Henry the Second granted to the canons of the said priory.

THE CHURCH, consist of a body, north, and south ayse, and a chancel, all tyled; at the west end is a square * tower of stone, containing four bells. It was given in the reign of Henry the Second to Bycknacre priory by Robert earl of Ferrers, which was granted and confirmed by his successor William de Ferrers, who gave up his right to the same. However it seems never to have been appropriated to their house, but continued chiefly in the gift of that noble family, and other lay patrons after them.

INDEED the prior and convent of St. Mary Spittle, Bishopsgate Without, presented to it in 1517, tho' it was never known whether they were legally entitled to make such presentation or not. At the suppression it went with the priory to Henry Polsted, who presented at the next vacancy. From him it came to Sir Walter Mildmay, and his posterity.

IN some records it is said that Sir Walter Mildmay gave the great tythes of this parish to the church. But we have very great reason to imagine, they were only portions of tythes paid out of the said parish to Bycknacre priory.

* The tower lately split asunder, and the half towards the south fell entirely down. It is remarkable, that in 1703, the whole tower fell down, which was rebuilt by a brief in 1715.

MONUMENTS, INSCRIPTIONS, &c.

On the right hand of the communion table is a very curious monument to the memory of CECILIE, wife to EDWARD, archbishop of York. It was erected as a testimony of filial affection, by her son Sir Samuel Sandys, knt. in 1619, who was that year high sheriff for the county of Worcester.

In a niche of black marble, superbly ornamented and gilt, is her effigy kneeling, and dressed in a manner peculiar to the age she lived in. On each side is a pillar of black marble, and on the top of them stands a phoenix. Adjoining to these pillars on the outside, are two whole length figures of Time and Death, of inimitable workmanship. Over all, in a wreath are inclosed the family arms, supported by two beautiful female figures, in a sedent posture. The whole is admirably executed: and we may justly say, from the expression of the figure, and the softness of the drapery, that it will remain a monument of the taste and skill of the statuary as long as it continues that of the exemplary virtue and piety of the lady. On a swelling entablature of black marble, under it, is the following inscription:

CECILIE SANDYS, daughter

Of Thomas Wilford, of Crambrook, in

Kent, esq. sister to the worthie soldiers

Sir James Wilford and Sir Thomas Wilford;

Was wife of Edwin Sandys, archbishop of York,

Who died in great honour in the yeare 1588. when he had

Lived full 70 years. She lived a pure maid 24 years;

Vol. I. No. 6.

C. c

A chaste

THE HISTORY OF

A chaste and loving wife 29 years ;
 A true widow 22 years to hir last.
 She bare him seven sons and two daughters.
 She led a most Christian and holy life ;
 Carefully educated her children ;
 Wisely governed her family ; charitably relieved the poor ;
 And was a true mirror of a christian matron.
 She departed this life, constant in christian faith,
 5 Febr. 1610, at the rising of the sun ;
 Her blessed soule ascending to the consort of the blessed,
 And her body lieth here interred,
 Expecting the joyful resurrection.

ON the right side the escutcheon is,

SAMUEL SANDYS, knt. eldest son of
 The said Cecilie, who of his love and pietie to
 His said mother, hath at his own cost
 Erected this monument in the year of our Lord, 1619,
 Being then high sheriff of the county of Worcester.

AND on the left side the same escutcheon is,

Sir EDWIN SANDYS, knt. his 2 sonne,
 Sir Miles Sandys, knt. and bart. 3 sonne ;
 William Sandys, who died in his youth ;
 Thomas Sandys, esq. 5 sonne ;
 Henry Sandys, esq. 6 sonne ;
 Margaret, married to Anthony Archer,
 Of Boverne, in Kent, esq.
 Ann, his 2 daughter, married to
 Sir William Barn, of Woolwich.

UPON the ground is a marble stone, with this inscription :

Cecilie

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED.

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Cecilie Sandys, wife of Edwin Sandys,

Archbishop of York,

Departed this life the 5 of Feb. 1610,

And is under this stone buried.

WOODHAM FERRERS RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

William Petvin, A. M. 1736. Elizabeth Waterfon.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 28 13 4

£ 2 17 4

THE present patron is Sir Brooke Bridges, bart. in right of his wife.

HANINGFIELD EAST.

THERE are three parishes adjoining to each other, distant about seven miles from Chelmsford, which bear the name of Haningfield; but they are distinguished from each other, on account of their situation; one being called East-Haningfield, another West, and another South.

THESE parishes lying on the borders of the hundreds, the situation is rather gloomy, and sometimes unhealthful. The roads are very bad, though the soil is fertile. A little more than a century ago, it was an entire woodland country; and even at this present time it wears a dreary, forest-like appearance.

DOMESDAY-book calls it Haneghesfelda and Haningfelda; whilst other ancient records term it Hanenfield.

THIS parish is generally imagined to have belonged to one Norman, in the reign of Edward the Confessor. But at the general survey to Ralph Baynard, lord of Dunmow; whose family enjoyed it till his grandson Henry forfeited it to the crown by espousing the cause of the earl of Maine and several others, against king Henry the First.

THAT monarch granted it to Robert, a younger son of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, progenitor of the ancient earls of Clare and baron Fitzwalter. Here it continued till Elizabeth, the daughter and heiress of Walter Fitzwalter, brought it by marriage into the Ratcliffe's earls of Suffex.

SOME time after the survey, all the lordships in these three parishes were vested in the Montcheny family; where they continued till about 1260, when Hugh de Vere, second son to Robert earl of Oxford, marrying Dionysia, one of the female descendants, they came to him, who obtained licence, 27 Edward I. to enlarge his park at East-Haningfield, (within the bounds of the forest,) with eleven acres of land. Upon the death of this lady Dionysia, (which happened in the seventh year of Edward the Second) she was succeeded in the manors of the Haningfields by her cousin Aymer de Valence, son to William earl of Pembroke, who also had the advowsons of the churches of East and West Haningfield. He died without issue;

issue; whereupon all his estates came to his three sisters. Upon an equal partition of his fortune these manors were allotted to his sister Isabella, wife of John de Hastings, baron of Bergavenny. It remained in this family for a considerable time; one of whom (in the eighteenth of Edward the Second) obtained the title of earl of Pembroke, on account of his affinity to Aymer de Valence. The last male descendant on whom the hopes of the family were centered, was killed at a tilting at Woodstock in Oxfordshire, in the thirteenth year of the reign of Richard the Second, being then but in the seventeenth year of his age.

HOWEVER he had settled these estates on the son of his mother's sister, William de Beauchamp, a younger son of Thomas earl of Warwick. He had all the three Haningfields. He is recorded as a brave soldier, who distinguished himself by his great valor in the wars of Henry the Fifth. He was slain at the battle of Meaux in France, in 1422; from which place his body was brought to Tewkesbury abbey in Worcestershire for interment.

HE left a daughter Elizabeth, who married Sir Edward Neville; a younger son of Ralph, earl of Westmoreland. It continued in some branch or other of the Nevilles, till Sir Henry, knt. lord Abergavenny sold them to John lord Petre, baron Writtle, who died possessed of them October 11, 1635, whose posterity have enjoyed them ever since.

THE lordship paramount in this parish of East-Haningfield, as was before observed, belongs to the
right

right honorable lord Petre. But there are two other manors appendant to this; viz. Claidon's, or Haningfield, and Cannon-Barnes.

CLAIDON'S, or HANINGFIELD, derived its name from it's ancient possessors. Sir William Hanningfeld who possessed it, was a knight banneret in the days of king Edward the First.

WILLIAM CLAYDONE possessed it at his decease in 1330.

In the reign of Richard the Second, William Hanningfeld held it under the heirs of Robert Fitzwalter, then under age.

It continued in this family till about the thirty-sixth year of Henry the Eighth, when William Latham, gent. held it.

It was holden of Robert earl of Suffex in 1610, as of his manor of Woodham Walter, by Sir Edward Solyard.

It now belongs to the right honorable lord Petre.

CANNON BARNES is but a small manor; part of which lies in this, and part in the parish of West Haningfield, but the mansion is in the former, situated about a mile from the church, towards South Haningfield.

SIR WALTER MILDMAY, particularly mentioned under the parish of Danbury, died possessed of this manor of Cannon Barnes in 1589, and was succeeded therein by his son Humphry.

It is now vested in Philip Brooke, of Nacton, in the county of Suffolk.

This

THIS parish enjoys several charitable donations : Here is a field of four pounds a year given to the church and poor.

THE annual sum of sixteen pounds is paid for the maintenance of several poor widows ; which sum arises from the rent of a house and lands.

HERE is likewise an alms-house standing in the church-yard, for one family.

THIS parish, as well as that of West Haningfield, enjoys the gift of lady Cæsar ; which will be more particularly mentioned under Downham.

HERE are about forty acres of abbey-land in this parish ; which appears by the licence obtained of Edward the First, who in the fourteenth year of his reign thereby authorised Andrew de Wodeyre to give that portion to the prior and convent of Bicknacre.

THE church is a rectory, dedicated to All Saints, and has been time immemorial appendant to the manor. It consists of a body and chancel, tiled. At the west end is a steeple, containing four bells, which is only a boarded one, with a shingled shaft.

At the north side of this church is a chapel or chantry remaining, built with brick, which had formerly a communication with the church but it is now bricked up.

MONUMENTS, INSCRIPTIONS, &c.

WITHIN the communion rails on a brass plate, is the following inscription in capitals :

Here lieth buried the body of Richard Bridges, Esquier ; some
time

time of Lincolnes Inne, counsellor at law; and late of this parish, who died the 7th day of November, 1606, Jacobi regis quarto

EAST HANINGFIELD RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

William Maister, A. M.

1744.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 13 15 7½

£ 1 7 6½

HANINGFIELD WEST

WAS anciently a part of the possessions of the noble William Warren, earl of Surry; in whom it was found vested at the time of the grand survey.

THERE are besides the lordship paramount, four other manors in subjection to it; viz. 1. Cloville's hall; 2. Haningfield Temple and Parage's; 3. Peverell's; 4. Chervile's.

CLOVILLE'S-HALL is a manor which derived its name from the ancient family of the Clovilles, who some centuries ago had great possessions in these parts. This estate centered in that family from the reign of Henry the Second down to 1664.

WE learn from Symmond's Collections, that in the time of Eustace Cloville, who was born in 1541, the manors of Cloville's-hall and Wykefort's were de-

scribe

scribed as containing twenty messuages, ten cottages, eight tofts; one thousand, two hundred, and forty acres of land, and forty shillings a year rent in East and West Hanningfield and Wykefort.

THIS estate now belongs to Mr. Richard Finch, of West Haningfield.

HANNINGFIELD TEMPLE, and Parage's, or Paget's. The appellation of Temple was given to this manor on account of it's having formerly belonged to the Knights Templars: and the appellation of Parages or Pagetts it undoubtedly took from the name of some family.

HENRY THE EIGHTH, in the year 1541, granted the manors of Haningfield Temple, and Pagetts to John Cannon, esq. citizen and merchant-taylor, of London: whose son Richard succeeded him therein upon his decease. This Richard Cannon dying without issue bequeathed them to his brother in law Richard Humfrie, esq.

In this last family they continued till 1727, when Edmund Humphrie, esq. dying unmarried bequeathed the estate of Pagetts or Parages to Humphry Sidney, esq. of Margareting.

As for the manor of Haningfield Temple, it came to Mr. Drage; who sold it to Daniel Williams, V. D. M. The last mentioned gentleman by a codicil to his will gave the Temple manor to his wife for the term of her natural life; and after her decease to the cities of Glasgow, and Edinburgh, in

Scotland, for the founding and endowing alms-houses in those places.

PEVERELLS was so called from the name of the antient family of Peverell who formerly possessed it.

It appears that this manor contained three hundred and eight acres of land, two rods and two perches, from a survey taken of it in 1611.

FROM the Peverell's about the year 1469 it came to William Cloville, who dying in 1469 was succeeded therein by his brother Edward.

IN 1625 John Tanfield, esq. held a moiety of the manor of Peverell's of Peter Whitecomb, as of his manor of Parage's, and the other moiety of William lord Petre, as of his manor of East and West Haningfield. He married a Cloville, by whom he had a son and heir, who succeeded him. It remained in this family till 1678. Daniel Tanfield sold it to Daniel Williams, V. D. M. and D. D.

THE mansion house stands about a mile from the church.

CHERVILLE's took its name from an antient owner. In the year 1254 there was a * trial between Ernald de Berkeld, and Michael de Chervile and others, about the right of common pasture in West Haningfield, belonging to the free tenement of the said Michael Chervile.

IN 1489 this manor was held by John Wawton. It was then described to consist of four messuages,

* See the pleas at Chelmsford 39 Henry the Third.

one hundred and twenty-five acres of land, and twenty shillings a year rent, of Sir George Neville, lord Bergavenny.

It came afterwards to John Cannon, but whether by marriage or otherwise we cannot learn; however it was then called the hamlet of Chervile.

MR. HUMFRY was afterward possessed of it.

THE present owner is Humphry Sidney of Margareting, esq.

THE mansion house stands about a quarter of a mile from the church.

CONTIGUOUS to the church is a good house, called the church house; formerly the seat of some of the Humfry's; but it now belongs to Mr. Sidney.

THIS parish was once the residence of John, son of John the first lord Petre.

HERE was antiently a manor in this district called Bedenested, which, according to Mr. Morant, makes a considerable figure in Domesday book. It gave name to one Petronilla de Bedenested, and Albric de Bensted.

THO' this manor is forgotten, yet the name of Bensted common, or green, still remains, which formerly belonged to that * lordship.

AMONG the charitable donations to this parish is that of Richard Cannon, who gave at his decease in 1605 to the poor thereof five pounds a year for ever, 'to be distributed every Saboath day in bread, to the poor of the said parish.'

* It lay partly in this parish, and partly that of Rettendon.

MRS. ANN HUMFRY, aunt to Mr. Humfry of Rettenden-hall, gave the sum of forty shillings yearly for ever to poor widows of this parish, who take no collection; which donation is to be paid annually out of Chervilles's.

THE CHURCH is dedicated to St. Mary and St. Edward, and consists of a body and south ayse; as does likewise the chancel. At the west end stands an octagon tower containing four bells; at the top of which is a spire of wood.

THE rectory was till lately always appendant to the manor, and consequently presented to by the noble possessors, viz. the Petres: but now it is alienated from that lordship.

MONUMENTS, INSCRIPTIONS, &c.

IN the south ayse of the chancel is a very antique stone, in which were inlaid in brass the half length effigies of a man and woman; the former is taken away; but the latter still remains. Beneath is this inscription in old English letters:

Isabele Cloville John son fils
Gisent ici lequele Johen
morust le XXIII jour d' Octobre
lan de grace MCCCCLXI
Dieu de leur alme eit m're

In English:

Isabel Clovill, and John her son lie here.
The last mentioned John departed this life the

23d. day of October, in the year of our lord
1361. God have mercy on their souls.

On the north side of the chancel stands an altar-tomb of stone, covered with grey marble, which belongs to the Cloville family; but the inscription is not legible.

On the floor near this is a white free stone; with the effigy of a youth cut thereon; round the borders of which are these words :

Heare Lyes John Erdeswicke, sonn and
Heyre of Richard Erdeswicke, esquier, who died
in November 160****.

THE rest is defaced.

IN one of the windows of the south ayfle is the following inscription painted on the glass in old letters:

Johannes Ellis, nuper hujus ville generi :
istas quatuor fenestras propriis sumpti:
Vitriari fecerit xxix die Martii,
Anno xxx Elisabethæ.

John Ellis, gent. late of this parish,
glazed these four windows at his
own expence, March 29th, in the
30th year of the reign of queen Elizabeth.

ABOVE are his arms painted on a quarry.

THE following inscription is in the church-yard near the porch door, which being truly original, we present to our readers as a specimen of church-yard poetry, &c.

Here

Here Lies the body
 of eleanor sexton
 youngest daughter
 of richard and eleanor
 sexton of so UTH han-
 ingfield who depar
 this life september
 the 19 1760 ag 20th
 in her blooming years.
 she dyd whom here
 we lay whilst her
 freed soul mounts
 to eternal day her
 body heaven will
 only here intrust
 till christ shall raise
 her up amongst the
 just.

WEST HANINGFIELD * RECTORY.
 INCUMBENT. PATRON.

Samuel How, A. M.

March 1755.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 16 13 4

£ 1 13 4

* Here is an exceeding good bricked parsonage house, at the west end of
 the church, well fashed, and round it pleasant gardens, &c.

SOUTH

SOUTH HANINGFIELD

IS all one manor as before observed, which passed as the other three did, through the families of Montcheny, Valence, Hastings, Beauchamp, Neville, &c. and is now in the right honorable the lord Petre.

INDEED a part of the manor of Baron, otherwise Barne-hall, runs into this parish; for an account of which, the reader is referred to Downham.

THE estate of South Haningfield-hall, belongs to Mr. Pratt.

HERE are two estates called Great Preston's, and Little Preston's; the former of which is possessed by Mr. Langley; and the latter by Humphry Sidney, Esq.

THE CHURCH is a rectory of one pace with the chancel, tiled. At the west end is a square stone tower, on the top of which is a spire: Here is but one bell.

THE advowson was formerly appendant to the manor.

It belonged at first to the prior and convent of St. Augustine's in Kent, a monastery for black canons, of the order of St. Augustine, founded in the year 1119, by Robert de Crevecoeur, and so continued till 1401 inclusive.

It came afterwards with the manor into the noble

ble families of Beauchamp, Neville, and Petre; the last of which has lately alienated it.

THERE are no monuments in this church, or chancel. In the latter are interred a family of the name of Tabor, as appears by an inscription or two.

SOUTH HANINGFIELD RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Samuel How, March

1755.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS

£ 10 00 0

£ 1 0 0

R E T T E N D E N

IS a parish, which derived it's name from the Saxons, who gave it that appellation on account of the badness of its roads; and indeed it justly merits the name now, tho' it is so many centuries since it obtained it.

DOMESDAY BOOK calls it Ratendune and Radendune; other antient records Ratyngdon, Rettenden &c.

THE whole of this lordship belonged to the monastery of Ely, from its foundation in 673 by Etheldreda. And upon the establishment of a bishopric

at Ely in 1108, it became a part of the possessions of that see, and continued in the bishops thereof till it was alienated in the reign of queen Elizabeth.

DIFFERENT parts of it were holden under them by the families of Bourchier and De la Hay.

It was granted on the sixth of November 1601 to Richard Barrell and others, to be holden in free socage of the manor of East Greenwich.

THE next possessors of it were the Cannon family : one of them held it in 1605, from whom it came to his brother in law Richard Humfry, esq. It continued in the different branches of his family till 1727. when Richard Humfry, esq. dying unmarried, gave all his estate in this parish to William Ffytche, esq. who was to pay the sum of twenty pounds a year for ever out of it for a school to be erected in this parish.

THE manor house lies at a small distance north west of the church, round which was formerly a park paleed in, and well stocked with deer. The bishop of Ely kept it in exceeding good order in the reign of Henry the Third.

BOURCHIER's was formerly a manor subject to that of Rettenden place as paramount ; Robert lord Bourchier held it of the bishop of Ely, as of his manor here, by the service of five shillings in 1348. And in the first of Henry the Fourth John lord Bourchier held the same : as did Bartholomew lord Bourchier in the tenth of the same reign From the former of these it took it's name.

It is at this time so much unknown either by name, situation, or any thing else, as to be a matter of great doubt whether it be what is now called Hide-hall (which is situated about a mile and a half from the church towards Woodham Ferrers and is in Mr. Western) or Little Hays, which took it's name from the family of De la Hay. But the latter of these seems to be the most probable.

From the De la Hays this estate came in 1480 to the Bouchier's, whose family held it of the bishop of Ely till 1570. It came some time after this into the possession of Henry Savile, knt. who made it part of the endowment of his two professorships of geometry and astronomy in the University of Oxford. This manor of Little Hays lies along an arm of the sea below Battles bridge, and has a royalty belonging thereto.

HULL-BRIDGE in this parish, over the river Crouch to the parish of Rawreth, has been new-built at the county expence, and was finished on Thursday June 16, 1769. It is of wood, and upon the same plan as the old one.

THIS parish enjoys several charities and donations.

RICHARD CANNON, esq. who died December 20, 1605, did give and assure unto the poor of this parish, five pounds land per annum for ever, to be distributed everie Saboath day in bread.

MRS. ANN HUMFRY gave forty shillings yearly for ever to this parish, to be distributed among poor widows thereof, who take no collection, payable out

of

of the farm called Chervile's, in the parish of West Haningfield.

A LADY gave the sum of four pounds a year, to be distributed in money to the poor of this parish, the first Sunday after Easter, by the minister and churchwardens for the time being. She was interred in this church, under a tomb of free stone, upon which was an inscription and a plate of brass; but this is now destroyed.

HERE is an estate in this parish called Marks, which was purchased by the trustees of Edmund Lee, esq. in 1706; which gentleman gave the sum of one thousand pounds for putting out five poor boys of the parish of Egham in Surry apprentices to watermen yearly: but upon neglect of such trustees in the performance thereof, the profit of the aforesaid money is to go to the poor of Staines.

THE church is a rectory dedicated to All Saints, consisting of a body and chancel tyled; on the north side of which stands a kind of chapel or chantry, covered with the same. At the west end is a stone tower embattled, in which are contained five bells.

MONUMENTS, INSCRIPTIONS, &c.

At the east end of the north ayse is erected a very sumptuous monument to the memory of the family of the Humfrys. It is a composition of alabaster, white and grey marble, about thirty feet high, and sixteen wide.

ON a tomb of white and grey marble, at the foot of the monument, is represented one of the family in a cumbent posture, at full proportion; reclining on his right arm, with his hand on a book opened. His left hand is extended towards the celestial regions, to which he looks up with that calmness and tranquility that await the departure of a sincere Christian. Behind him are two naked boys, lamenting with tears that moment which snatches him from existence.

On the back part of this tomb is a spacious pedestal of white marble, on which stand two whole length figures. The right hand one is a man in armour, and whose feet lies an helmet. The figure on the left is a woman, dressed in the attire of former days. Between them is seen on the pedestal a skull and bones, the just emblems of mortality: behind is a table of the richest grey marble, upon the top of which are two cherubims.

A KIND of arched dome, of the same sort of marble, projects over all, supported by two stately pillars of the Corinthian order, of the like marble, but of exquisite workmanship: the entablatures are of white marble, curiously wrought: Between these are the arms neatly displayed, and ornamented with various military trophies, &c.

ON each side the pillars is a kind of niche of grey marble. That on the north side contains an infirm old man, leaning upon a stick: the other on the south, a middle-aged lady, gorgeously apparalled, with her left foot treading on a human skull: both these

these figures are as large as life, and stand on two swelling pedestals of marble. Above each of these is a phoenix, ornamented with curious foliage.

THE following inscription is in a plain table of marble, at the bottom of the tomb :

Here lies the body of EDMUND HUMFRY, esq.
by whose order this monument was erected
in memory of himself and family.

He died a bachelor the 12th day of June, 1727,
Aged 53 years.

He gave all his estate in this parish to
WILLIAM FFYTCH, of Danbury-Place,
in this county, esq.

paying twenty pounds per annum yearly for ever,
for a school to be erected in this parish.

And his estate in West Haningfield, to
HUMPREY SIDNEY, of Margareting,
in this county, esq.

He was the son of EDMUND HUMFRY, esq.
by Frances, daughter of Eleazer Carlswell,
of Shiffnall, in the county of Salop, esq.
whose father, Richard Humfry, married

Ann, the eldest daughter of Sir Hen. Hungate,
in East Bradenham, in the county of Norfolk, bart.

THIS elegant monument is inclosed with iron palisades, taking in about sixteen feet square, the floor of which is paved with various kind of marble, alabaster, and porphyry, prettily displayed.

In the same ayfle, near this are interred many of the same family.

ON two stones are the effigies of two men in brass, at whose feet are the following inscriptions :

On

ON the right hand one :

Here lieth interred, the body of Richard Canon, esq. who amongst other charitable workes, did giue and assyre vnto those of the poore of this parish, five pounds in landes per annum for ever, to be distributed euerie sabbath day in bread to the poore of the said parish, and he died without issue the xx of December, in the year of our Lord God, 1605.

ON the left hand side one :

Here lyeth interred the body of Richard Humfry, gent. half-brother to Richard Cannon, esq. whom the said Richard Cannon made his heire. Who had issue Richard, William, and Edmund, and died the xxi of December, in the yeare of our Lord God, 1607.

RETENDEN RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Wm. H. Thomlinson.

Bishop of Ely.

1718.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 32 6 3

£ 3 4 7

RUNWELL, or RONEWELLE

IS a parish that received it's name from some noted running well. The situation of it is low, the consequence of which is, it is rather unhealthy, and the roads are bad.

THE chief lordship here was a part of the possessions of St. Paul's, being given to that cathedral by

king

king Athelstan, and then consisted of twelve farms. At the conquest it was seized by the triumphant Norman; but afterwards was restored.

HERE is a mansion house about a mile from the church.

Two other inferior manors here were possessed in the time of our Saxon forefathers by Lefstan and Edeva; but at the general survey they were vested in Eustace, earl of Bologne.

FROM these arose the following manors; Runwell-hall, Sandon, and Flemyngs.

RUNWELL-HALL being given to the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, as before observed, remained in them till 1546, when Henry the Eighth, by an arbitrary stretch of power, got it into his hands, and almost immediately made a grant of it to Sir Anthony Brown, and his heirs for ever. This grant however was invalidated by the death of that monarch, but a few weeks afterwards, on account of it's not having gone thro' all the necessary offices. The dean and chapter therefore possessed it till the reign of Edward the Sixth, when they exchanged it with their sovereign for the manor of Mucking in this county, and the perpetual advowson of the church, * &c.

EDWARD LORD CLINTON was its next possessor.

SIR JOHN GATE obtained a grant of it from him

* The other considerations they had for the exchange were, the parsonages of Charing in Kent; Therfield in Hertfordshire; and High Easter, in this County, together with the advowson of that vicarage.

May 4, 1553, upon whose attainder the very same year, it came to the crown; when Mary gave it to Susannah Tonge, otherwife Clarencieux, widow, first lady of her bedchamber.

This lady, being the favourite of her royal mistress, obtained her licence to give the reversion of this estate, &c. to her nephew George White, esq. and his heirs.

IN this family it continued till 1679, when Mr. Simon Rogers, * citizen of London, purchased it of one of them.

IT is now in the possession of George Rogers, esq. of Mile End.

SANDON was formerly a manor holden by a gentleman of the same name, in the reign of Henry the Third; but it must be joined to some other now, as the name of it seems to be forgotten by the most ancient inhabitants.

CARDINAL WOLSEY obtained a grant of an estate in this parish from Henry the Eighth, which in all probability was this, as no records whatever prove it to be any other.

FLEMYNGS is a manor so called from the very ancient family of that name.

THE mansion-house was their chief seat, being for-

* This gentleman is descended, by the father's side, from the Rogers of Dorsetshire; and from the Herick's of Leicestershire by the mother's. He was great grandson to the well-known Mrs. Herick, and was one of the hundred and forty-two, which that lady saw descended from her body. See the inscription on her tomb-stone in St. Martin's church, Leicester.

merly a very noble and extensive building, of which only a small part is now remaining: but the reader will be able to form some idea of it's magnificence, when he is told, that about fifty spacious rooms and a large chapel, (till a fire consumed above thirty of them, at the time of Mr. Parker's possessing it,) was not more than half the original house.

—Adjoining to the chapel there was a burial ground, as appears from the many bones, skulls, and parts of coffins that have been frequently disturbed from their place of interment by the diligent plough. — There were likewise belonging to it, an extensive park, a large warren, fine canals, delightful woods, and in short every thing conducive to render it a most elegant and pleasing country seat. But what will appear almost incredible to those who have formed their notions of Essex prospects by riding only from London to Harwich, this house commands a view over some parts of this county and Kent, including more than thirty parish churches.

THE roof is uncommon, and somewhat curious, being arched throughout in the manner of church buildings. In the parlour on the left hand as you enter the house, are some very antient paintings of the Sybils, and the Cæsars, which have been there time immemorial; and notwithstanding their appearance dates them some centuries back, the expression of the features and the justness of the drapery still to be seen, characterise them to have been the production of some eminent master of the times he lived in.

AFTER the Flemyngs it came by marriage into the Sulyard family, where it continued for many years, and is now in the possession of John Tyrrel, of Hatfield-Peverell, esq. who has some very fine paintings on glasse which formerly belonged to this once venerable seat.

THERE are two alms-houses in this parish; one near the church, of two dwellings; the other near Rettenden common, of only one dwelling.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church is a brick building leaded, containing a chancel and two ayles: it has now four bells in a square tower; and Mr. Parker, the late proprietor of Flemyngs, having some years ago given to the parish the bell which belonged to the chapel that was formerly there, the parishioners intend putting it up to compleat a peal.

IN the wall of the church upon the left hand, is a very ancient neat monument of stone, inlaid with brasse, upon which are engraved the effigies of Ewstace Sulyard and Margaret his wife, with the following inscription underneath, in Old English characters:

Here doe lie Ewstace Sulyard, Esquier, and Margaret Ayloff
sometime his wyfe, who had to her first husbände Gregory Ballet,
Esquier, by whome she had yssue Dorothee, her only daughter and
heyer, and now wyfe unto Anthonie Maxry, Esquier. And to her
second husband she had the sayd Ewstace Sulyard, betweene whome
they had yssue Edward Sulyard, Esquier, their sonne and heyer,
and

and Mary, Margaret, Jane, Anne, and Bridget their daughters; and to her thirde and last husbände she had William Ayloff, of Britzens, Esquier, by whome she had no yssue; which said Ewstace Sulyard died in Februarie, in the first yeare of King Edward the Sixte; and the said Margaret died the fiste of Februarie, in the ix and twentyeth yeare of our soveraigne queene Elizabeth.

On the top of the monument are the arms of each of her three husbands.

On the right hand of the chancel is a neat monument of grey marble, bearing as follows:

In the neighbouring earth
lies the body of Edward
Sulyard, who died the
vii day of November,
MDCXCII. aged LXXII. being
the last of his house and
family.

OVER the inscription is the family arms.

ON the ground, within the chancel, is a neat black marble stone, bearing this information;

Here lieth interred the body of
Charles Parker, gent. late of
Flemyns, and Anne, his wife.
Here also lieth the body of
Charles Parker. gent. son of the
above Charles Parker, gent. who
died September 25. 1753, ætatis suæ 62.
The mother of the late Charles Parker, gent.
her maiden name was Ann Sulyard,
one of the
neices and coheiresses of Edward Sulyard, esq.
of Flemyns.

THE HISTORY OF RUNWELL RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Philip Griffin, A. M.

1766.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 13 0 0

£ 1 6 0

STOCK, or HARWARDS STOCK.

THIS parish is pleasantly situated on an eminence, the high road from Chelmsford to Billericay, Horn-don on the Hill, and Tilbury lying through it. It is about twenty-five miles from London and five from Chelmsford.

It is conjectured by many, that this parish, which is not a large one, was originally no more than a hamlet to Butsbury, being entirely surrounded by it, except to the east, where it abuts upon the parishes of South and West Haningfield: and what seems to give weight to such an opinion is, that the lands contained in this parish are holden of three adjoining manors in Butsbury, particularly that of Blounts.

THIS parish is not mentioned in domesday-book, nor is there the site of any one manor house in it. As to its name of Stock, the Etymologists inform us, that

that it comes from the Saxon *stocce*, a stock or log, which implies that here was plenty of wood, or that this spot was full of the remains of a forest, when it came to be settled by the Saxons. In some parts of this parish the soil is gravelly, but towards the common, which is pretty large and almost joins with that of Gallywood on the north, and Ramsden on the south-west, the soil is a kind of lome, called by the inhabitants brick and pot earth, because there is a kiln for each of these manufactures lying in Butsbury. The brick made here are reputed the best in these parts, and the pots are strong but a coarse and ordinary ware.

THERE is at present but one house of any note in this parish, which is the property of and inhabited by Thomas Barrington, esq.

IN the nineteenth year of Henry the Third, Gefrey the monk was possessed of some lands in Ginges Joybert, with the advowson of the church of Stock.

PHILIP DE BURNELL, who died in the twenty-second year of Edward the First, had an under-tenant named John de Wytenham, who had one carucate of land in the parish of Stock.

THE chief part of the lands in this parish became afterwards vested in the noble family of Ferrers of Groby, as part of their lordship of Blounts, or Ging-Joyberd-Laundry. From this family it passed to

JAMES LORD BERKELEY; in whose heirs it continued till it was sold in the reign of queen Elizabeth

to

Paul

PAUL BAYNING, esq. sheriff of London in 1593, who was succeeded therein by his son Paul, created a baronet in 1611, being the seventy-fourth in order; he was advanced to the dignity of a baron of this realm in 1627, and soon after that to Viscount Bayning of Sudbury. He died July 29, 1629, having for successor his son Paul, who died in 1638, leaving only two daughters. The eldest married Aubrey de Vere, earl of Oxford, to whom she brought this, as part of the manor of Blounts: But having no issue, this estate came to her aunt Elizabeth Bayning, youngest sister of her father, which was married to Francis Leonard, Lord Dacre, and had by him two sons; Thomas, advanced to the title of Lord Suffex, and Henry.

THE fourth part of the Bayning estate which she had inherited, she left to her younger son Henry Leonard, esq. in which was included Blount's-hall, and that part which lay in Stock. By his wife he had three daughters; viz. Margaret, Catharine, and Ann; these at his decease he left his coheiresses; and they sold Blount's-hall, with the appurtenances, in 1745 or 1746, to

LADY COMYNS, widow of Sir John Comyns, knight, late chief baron of the Exchequer. And Mary, widow of John Comyns, esq. was jointered in it; after whose decease it descended to John Richard Comyns, esq. the present possessor.

Benefactions to the Poor of this Parish:

ONE Mr. James gave a house and two crofts of land in Downham, containing about four acres; the rent to be divided between Stock and Butsbury.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church is dedicated to All Saints, and is pretty large, having two ayssles and a chancel. It is a very ancient building, of brick, tiled. There is a tradition, that the steeple was demolished by fire many years ago. The present steeple is entirely of wood, and remarkable for it's being composed of large thick planks, fixed into deep grooves between the studs. It has three bells and a clock.

Within the south wall of the church stands an altar tomb, covered with a grey marble stone; in which is inlaid in brass an escutcheon; quarterly, 1. a satirier engrailed, with a chief. 2. a cross pattée, ermine, between three roses. 3. an orle between eight martlets. 4. three bears muzzled. Crest, a raven. Under these a man in armour, whose hands are folded in a posture of devotion: at his feet is a plate, upon which is an inscription in Old English characters as underneath:

The corpes of Richard Twedye, Esquier, lyeth buried here in
tombe

Bewrapte in claye and so reserved untill the joyefull dome
Whoe in his lyffe hath served well against the Inglishe foes
In foren landes and eke at home his countrye well it knowes

The

The prince he served in courte full longe a pensioner fit in personage

In his country a justice eke a man full grave and sage.

Foure almes houses here hathe he bilte for foure poor knights to dwell,

And them indewed with stypendes lardge enoughe to kepe them well.

In fiftye eight yeares his course he ran, and ended the 28 Januarye 1574.

ONE would be led to imagine, from reading this inscription, that the esquire Twedye had made a very ample provision for his poor knights; but behold it turned out, upon examination, that this *stypende lardge enoughe to kepe them well*, is no more than one shilling each man per week. By the foundation Stock puts two and Boreham two into these houses; for the founder lived at Boreham. Beatrice his mother was daughter and heiress to Richard Winnington, esq. his great grandfather, George Twedye, came out of Scotland.

AMONGST the rectors of this parish one of the most eminent was Charles Hoole, M. A. a kinsman of bishop Sanderfon; at first master of Rotheram and other schools, and editor of several useful school-books: afterwards rector of this parish from 1660 to 1667. He is buried in the chancel of this church.—No less eminent for learning was the late rector, the rev. Mr. Thomas Cox; but as he resided in Bromesfield, we shall defer any further account of him till we come to speak of that place.

IN-

STOCK RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

The Rev. Mr. — Unwin. — Unwin, Esq.
1768.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 10 0 0

£ 1 0 0

BUTSBURY, otherwise GINGES
JOYBERD.

THIS parish is bounded on the north side by Margaretting, on the east by Stock, on the south by Billericay, and on the west by Munassing and Ingarestone. The church and principal part of this parish lie at a considerable distance from any high road, except some of the lands belonging to the manor called Blunts, which together with the manor house extend along the great road leading from Stock to Billericay.

IN the time of the Saxons we find the lands of this parish in one Bond; and at the time of the general survey they are entered into the domesday book by the name of Cinga, and as the property of Henry de Ferrers. There are no less than seven manors within this parish; viz. 1 the manor of Blunts, alias Ginges Joyberd Laundry. 2 Friffling,
Vol. I. No. 6. G G alias

alias Thrustling-hall. 3 Impey-hall. 4 The hamlet, manor, and park of Crondon. 5 The manor of Whites. 6 The manor of Ramseys, alias Ramsey Tyrrels. 7 Buckwins — but some of these manors extend into, and almost comprehend the whole parish of Stock. There is not one house of any note in this parish, nor has any gentleman resided in it for many years; so that it affords but little matter for the entertainment of the reader: and to enter into long and tedious accounts of the families who have been at different times in possession of it, would not, as I apprehend, be at all entertaining to the principal part of my readers, and moreover is entirely without the plan which was first proposed for this history. I shall therefore only just mention slightly each manor, and pass on to another parish.

BLUNTS. This manor took it's name from the ancient possessor of it, under the noble family of Ferrers; for Robert le Blund held it in the reign of Henry the Third; and he being attainted, his estates were thereby forfeited to the crown. They nevertheless came again into this family; for in the twelfth of Richard the Second, and for a considerable time afterwards, we find it in the possession of the Blounts. But it is to be considered all this time as held by the Blounts under the noble family of the Ferrers, lords paramount of this manor. From the Ferrers it came by purchase into the family of the Baynings, with whom it remained till 1745, or thereabouts, when it was purchased (as I before men-

tioned

pioned in my account of Stock) by the family of the Comyns of Highlands, with whom it now remains.

THE manor of Frisling. The house stands in the midway between Stock and Margaretting. At the general survey this manor belonged to the nunnery of St. Mary, at Barking: it was afterwards possessed by many different families, and is now the property of the right honorable the lord Petre.

IMPEY HALL. The mansion house stands about a mile south east from Buttsbury church. This manor was likewise once the property of a religious community; from whom it was taken by Henry the Eighth, and given to a bishop of Ely. How it came to be afterwards separated from that see does not appear, but it is now a part of the estate of lord Petre.

The hamlet, manor, and park of Crondon can hardly be esteemed a part of Buttsbury, although it is generally mentioned as belonging to it; for this hamlet is in fact a part of Orset parish, to which it is rated and pays tithes, notwithstanding it is sixteen miles distant from it. Who the first possessors were is uncertain, but it appears to have once belonged to the see of London: in Harry the Eighth's time it was vested in the crown, and by that monarch was sold for one hundred and sixty pounds to Sir William Petre, knt. whose heirs have enjoyed it down to the present time.

The manors of Whites and Ramsey Tyrrel, are both the property of that very ancient and respectable family.

family. The mansion house of this manor is situated about the midway between Stock and Butsbury, on the right-hand side of the road from Stock; and the manor pays six pounds, thirteen shillings, and four pence to the hospital of Ingatestone.

THE manor of Buckwins once belonged to the abbey of Stratford Langthorne. After the dissolution of the monasteries, Henry the Eighth granted it to a Sir Richard Rich, who sold it afterwards into the family of Farre; it next came into that of Taverner, and was purchased of them about the year 1739 by Mr. Vernon, of the Hyde in Frierning, a merchant in London.

OUT of an estate in this parish called Catlyns, eighteen pounds a year is paid to Ingatestone hospital.

The church of Butsbury is small, most miserably out of repair, and without a single monument or inscription in it. The length of the building, including the steeple, is thirty-eight feet; the chancel is twenty-eight feet long, and twenty-one wide on the outside: at the west end is a square tower, built of flint and stone, on the top of which is a spire shingled. In this tower are three bells. The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and was of old appropriated to the nunnery of St. Leonard Stratford, near Bow. It is only a donative, or curacy, with care of souls, being served by such persons as the impropriator (who is the right hon. lord Petre) shall chuse to appoint, being licenced by the bishop.

The

THE present gentleman is the Rev. Mr. Lloyd, A.M. Rector of Ingatestone.—The certified value of it is fourteen pounds per annum, and they have divine service only once a month.

MOUNTNEY'S-ING, or MUNASSING.

THIS parish is bounded by Ingatestone and Frierning on the north side; by Hutton to the south; Butsbury to the east, and Shenfield to the west: its distance from London is twenty-one miles; and the great turnpike road from the metropolis to Suffolk, Norfolk, and Harwich lies directly thro' it.

THIS parish receives its name from the ancient family of the Mountneys, and the ing added thereto is a Saxon word, signifying meadow or pasture; a term used to characterise and denote the particular goodness of the pastures in this level. In the Saxon times this parish was possessed by Ingwar; Alfega and Algar, two young women that were free; and Alwin. At the general survey it was holden by Nanulf, brother of Ilgar, and under him by one William.

THERE are in this parish five different manors, viz. Mountneys-ing, Bacons, Chevers, Cowbridge, and Arnolds.

The

THE mansion-house of Mountneys-ing manor is an exceeding handsome brick building, fit for the reception of a gentleman of fortune, situate upon a small eminence near the church, and there appears to me to have been a park formerly surrounding it: at present however the grounds about it consist entirely of meadows and rich pastures, together with most fruitful corn-fields, suited wholly to the convenience of a farmer, by whom it is now occupied. The family of Mountneys, from whom it took its name, is of great antiquity in this county; for Robert de Mountenni was one of the witnesses to the foundation charter of Thobie priory in this parish, about the reign of king Stephen, and is supposed to have been the son and heir of Læcia, eldest daughter of Jordan de Briefete, founder of the hospital of St. John at Jerusalem, near West Smithfield, London, in 1254. This Robert Montenni was presented at Chelmsford, for not taking upon him the order of knighthood. He was succeeded by his son; and so it continued descending from father to son as far as the reign of Henry the Eighth; and at that time we find John Mountney, esq. possessed of this and other estates in this county. About the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign this manor was the property of one — Hamon; it afterwards came by marriage into the hands of William Wilford, esq. and in a short time after his decease it was purchased by Sir William Petre, and has continued ever since in that family.

The

THE manor of Bacons is so called from a family of that name. In the latter end of Edward the First's reign Edmund Bacunne and John his brother, had licence to inclose their wood of Gings by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee, and convert it into a park; after this family it became the property of Sir William Capel, who was ancestor to the present earl of Essex; from the Capels, it came (but it is uncertain by what means) into the Petre family, where this manor still remains.

THE manor of Chevers derived its name from a family surnamed Capri, or de Capra, and may be traced in that family from the eighth year of king John's reign down to the eleventh of Henry the Sixth.

THE manor of Cowbridge is pretty extensive, reaching from the Red Lion Inn at Billericay up as far as the watch-house, and goes down the lane called Tye Lane, that leads to Brentwood. A family in the reign of Henry the Third took their name from it; after that it became the property of the abbey of Stratford Langthorn; and after the suppression of the monasteries it came into Sir Richard Riche's family, who alienated both this and another farm (tho' not a manor farm) called Little Cowbridge to Sir William Petre, in whose family they also have remained ever since.

THE mansion house of Arnolds manor is a very large and venerable pile of building. There is no mention made of this estate till the reign of Henry the Seventh: in the ninth year of that king it appears

pears to have been the property of Henry Elvedon, esq. from him it came to John Brock, esq. and next into the families of the Perts, who were in possession of it so late as the year 1734-5. — Exclusive of these manors, which we have already given some account of, there are other estates in this parish; but the only one worth our notice is the dissolved priory of Thoby, which was founded in king Stephen's reign, between the years 1141 and 1151, for canons of St. Augustine, by Michael de Caprá, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and St. Leonard. The founders granted Tobias the first prior (from whom it took its name) many valuable emoluments; but about the time cardinal Wolsey was founding his colleges, this amongst other small monasteries was given to him by his master, in order to be appropriated to the purpose of endowing them; but after the cardinals disgrace they reverted again to the crown, and were granted to Sir William Page, knt. with the reversion to William Berners, esq. with whom it continued some years after the death of Page; and we find it after them the property of the Prescot-family, descended from the ancient families of that name in Lancashire; where it remained till the year 1750, when by the death of John Prescot, esq. the last of this family, the house which is an exceeding good one, and the estate, came into the Blincoe family by marriage between Henry Blincoe, esq. a counsellor at law, and descendant from an ancient family of that name in Cumberland, and Mary the only surviving daughter
and

and heirefs of Alexander Prescot, esq. and it remains still in possession of the Blencoe family.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church, dedicated to St. Giles or St. Leonard, consists of a body and two ayles, is in exceeding good repair and very neat: the chancel has also a south ayse or chantry, all tyled. At the west end is a wooden frame, with a single shaft, and one bell. The church was formerly appropriated to the priory of Thoby, and a vicarage ordained, of which the monks continued patrons till their suppression, when coming to the crown, Henry exchanged this, together with the rectory, with Sir William Petre, for the manor of Peldon; and that has remained with the Petre family to the present time.

In the chancel are many stones laid down with inscriptions to the memory of different branches of the Prescot family, but as they do not contain any thing very remarkable, I have omitted troubling my readers with any of them, except one wrote in Latin upon an oval monument of black marble, fixed against the north wall of the chancel, as follows:

Hic situs est
Johannes Prescot,
Alexandri de Thoby, filius primogenitus;
Alexandri olim senatoris Londinensis
Nepos,
Parentam (quos reliquit superstites) lucus
familiæ decus
Litteris & Linguis

Domestica et extranea scientia
 excultissimus,
 Ingenio prudentia,
 Probitate, temperantia,
 æque præditus;
 Vita longiori dignus,
 Et cælo (quo jam potitus est) dignior
 Mortalia scivit omnia;
 Ideoque, ut animum cognitione sibi pari expleror,
 migravit in lucem
 Æternitatis

19 Feb. A. D. MDCLVI

Ætatis suæ XXXIII.

Officium nostro cogor Prestare Johannes,
 Carmen, quot potius, debuit ille mihi
 Parcarum impensæ leges! præpostera fata!
 Præceptor gemit in funera discipuli
 Et quanquam invenis; matura morte recessit,
 nam fuit mente et moribus ante senex.
 Posuit pater Flevit Jo. Collie. Tutor
 Cantabrig.

Thus Englished:

Here lies interred
 JOHN PRESCOT
 eldest son of Alexander, of Thoby,
 and of Alexander, (sometime alderman of London,)
 nephew;
 to his parent (whom he left behind) he was a grief;
 of his family he was the ornament;
 being in letters and languages,
 in knowledge both foreign and domestic,
 most uncommonly skilled:
 with sense and prudence,
 virtue and temperance,
 alike adorned,

He was worthy a longer life ;
 and of Heaven (which he now enjoys) still more worthy :
 he saw the insufficiency of all worldly acquisitions,
 and therefore
 that he might fill his mind with a knowledge meet for him,
 he passed into the light of
 Eternity.

February the 19th, in the year of our Lord 1656,
 and of his age 33.

I cannot but pay this tribute of a verse to my beloved friend ;
 a duty which ought rather to have been performed by him for
 me ; O cruel destiny ! perverse misfortune ! the master here mourns
 at the funeral of his disciple. Although you learn that he departed
 this life young in age, yet he became before his dissolution, old in
 knowledge.

His father caused this monument to be put up to his me-
 mory : his Tutor Jo. Collie of Cambridge hath lamented him
 in these lines.

In the body of the church on the north side are
 two very neat monuments near each other, upon that
 to the right is inscribed as follows :

Near this place
 are deposited the remains of
 John Prefcot, of Thoby, esq.
 who departed this life
 May 19, 1750, aged 39 years.

Faith, hope, and charity, his constant friends
 Did all his actions guide to noble ends ;
 These virtues he from heaven drew down here
 And they well pleased, at length have raised him there.
 Moriendo vivo.

And on the left one:

Near this place
lieth the body of
Henry Bluncoe, Esq.
Counsellor at Law.

He was descended from Sir Henry Bluncoe,
Of Bluncoe, in the County of Cumberland. Knt.
And married Mary, the only surviving daughter
and heiress of Alexander Breckot, of Thoby, Esq.
By whom he left two Children, viz.
Henry and Mary

His afflicted Widow,
in memory of his many excellent Virtues,
as a Husband, a Parent, and a Friend,
caused this Monument to be erected.
He died the 29th of April, 1705
in the 54th year of his Age.

MUNASSING VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

Philip Rotenhagen, A. M.
1766.

PATRON.

St. John's Coll. Camb.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS.

£ 27 18 4

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 1 0 0

ING.

INGATESTONE.

THE meaning of the first syllable of this name, we have already explained under Munassing, page 237: and the words *at stone* import, that at the time it received this appellation, one of the Roman military stones stood here, it being a custom among them to set up stones in their high ways to denote the miles; which was copied after them by their successors, and is still in practice in all the turnpike roads throughout the kingdom: it is found, in old records, written many different ways, as Ging, and Yng, ad Petram; Ging and Yng, at Stone; and Ging Abbels. It is bounded by the parish of Butsbury on the east, Margaretting on the north; Frierning, and Doddinghust, on the west; and Munassing and Butsbury on the south.

ALTHOUGH it cannot boast of the pleasantness of its situation, (being in a bottom) yet it has many advantages to compensate for this small defect; and among them, that of the fertility and goodness of the soil around it might be deemed more than sufficient: It has likewise great benefits arising from a market for live cattle, which is held here every Wednesday; for being not above twenty-three miles distant from London, many Graziers, Jobbers, and Butchers come from thence, and carry on a considerable traffic here.

It

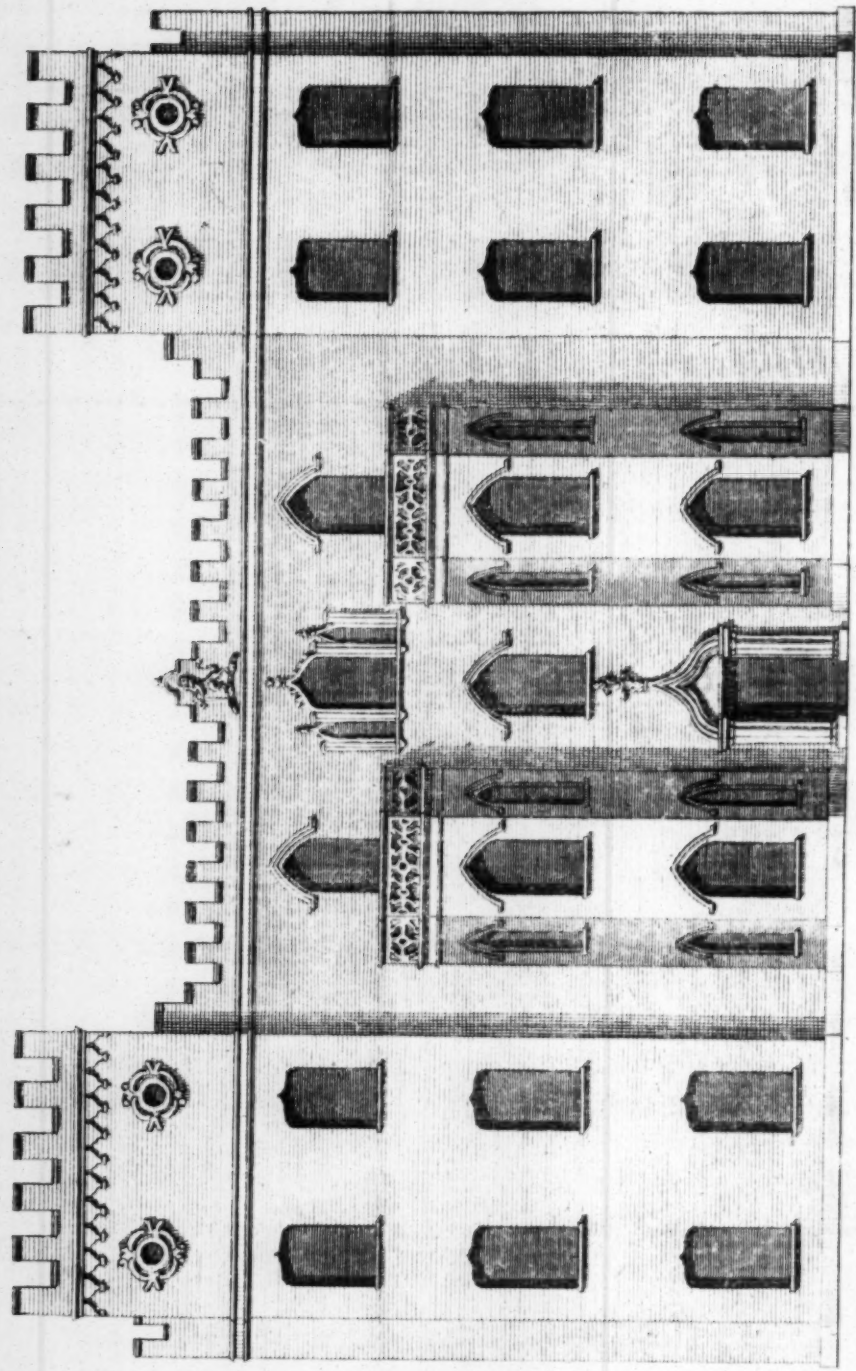
It consists chiefly of inns, is a post town, and a great thoroughfare to Norfolk, Suffolk, Harwich, Colchester, and many other parts of this country: most of the stages either Norfolk or Suffolk dine here in their way to London, or breakfast in their return. A very large fair is held here on the 1st of December yearly: the principal commodity of which is live cattle.

THE following three manors are in the parish: Ingatestone, Hanley or Hauley, and Wood-Barnes. — They were all of them formerly belonging to the nunnery of Barking; founded by Ethenwald bishop of London, in the year 675: at the dissolution they came to the crown, when king Henry the Eighth granted the manor of Ingatestone to William Petre L. L. D. and his heirs for ever, in consideration of the sum of eight hundred and forty-nine pounds twelve shillings and six pence: in which family it now continues.

THE manor of Hanley, alias Havelly, coming into the hands of king Henry the Eighth at the dissolution, he granted this manor to Elizabeth Hill, widow of Richard Hill, servant to that king; from her it came to Sir William Petre; and is now in the possession of the Right Hon. Lord Petre.

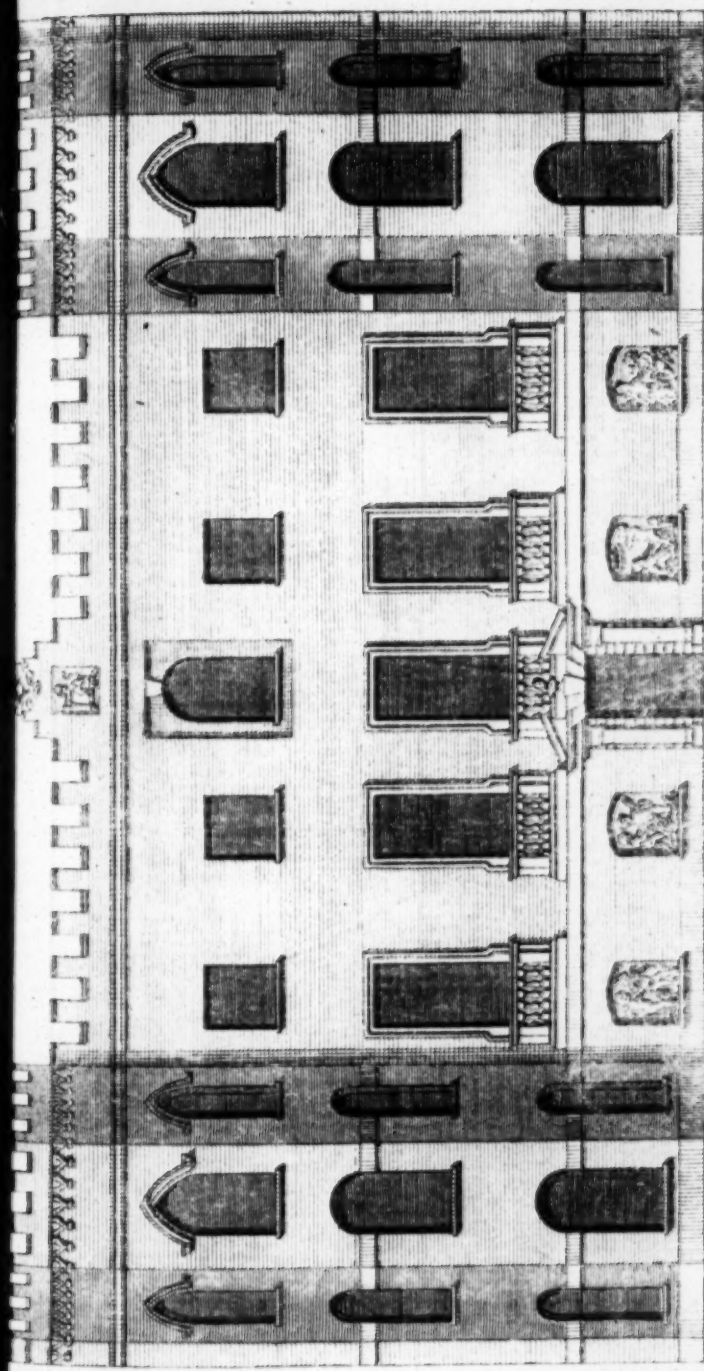
THE manor of Wood Barnes, sharing the same fate at the last mentioned dissolution, king Henry the Eighth gave this manor to John Smith, esq. one of his servants. Afterwards it came into the family

of

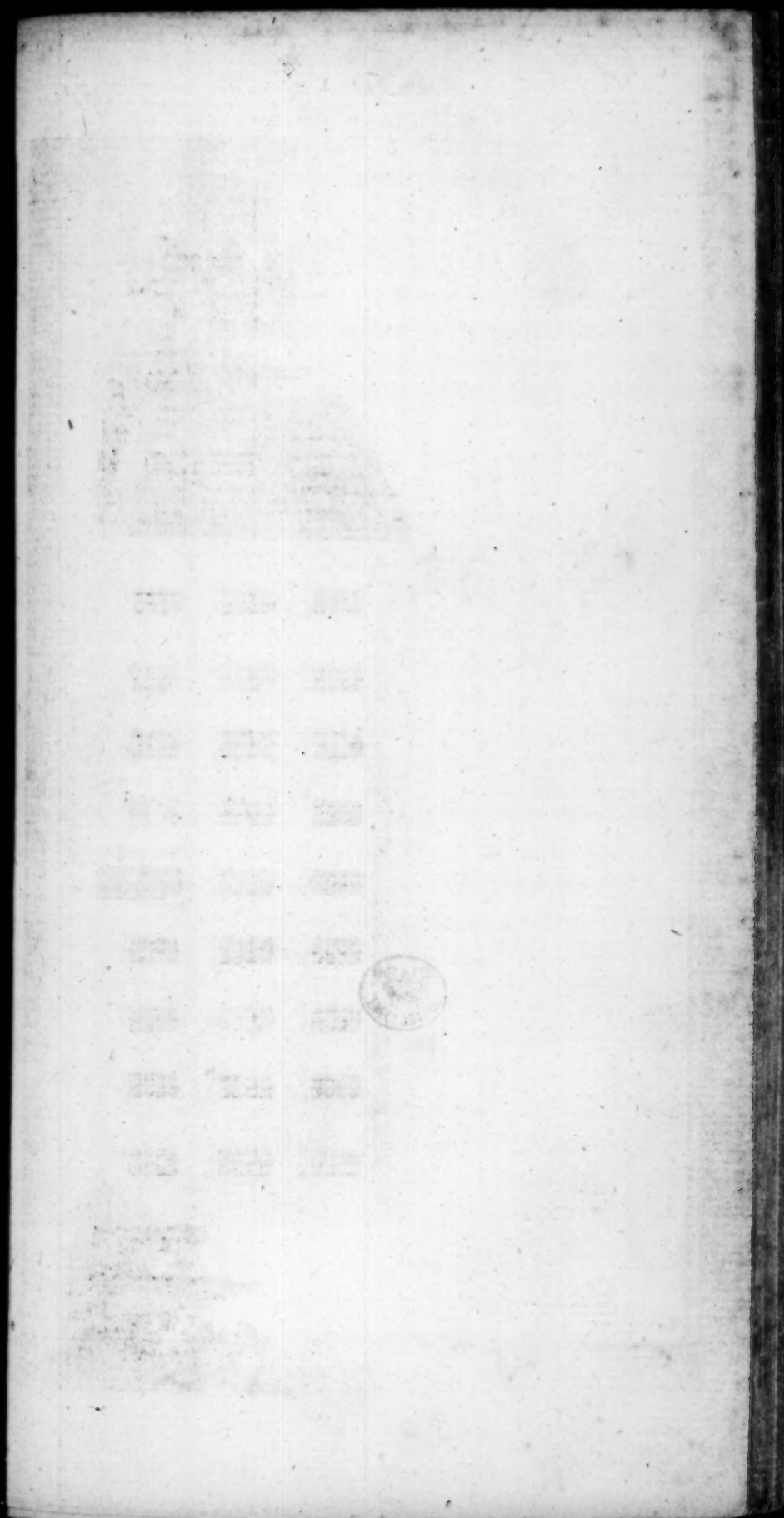


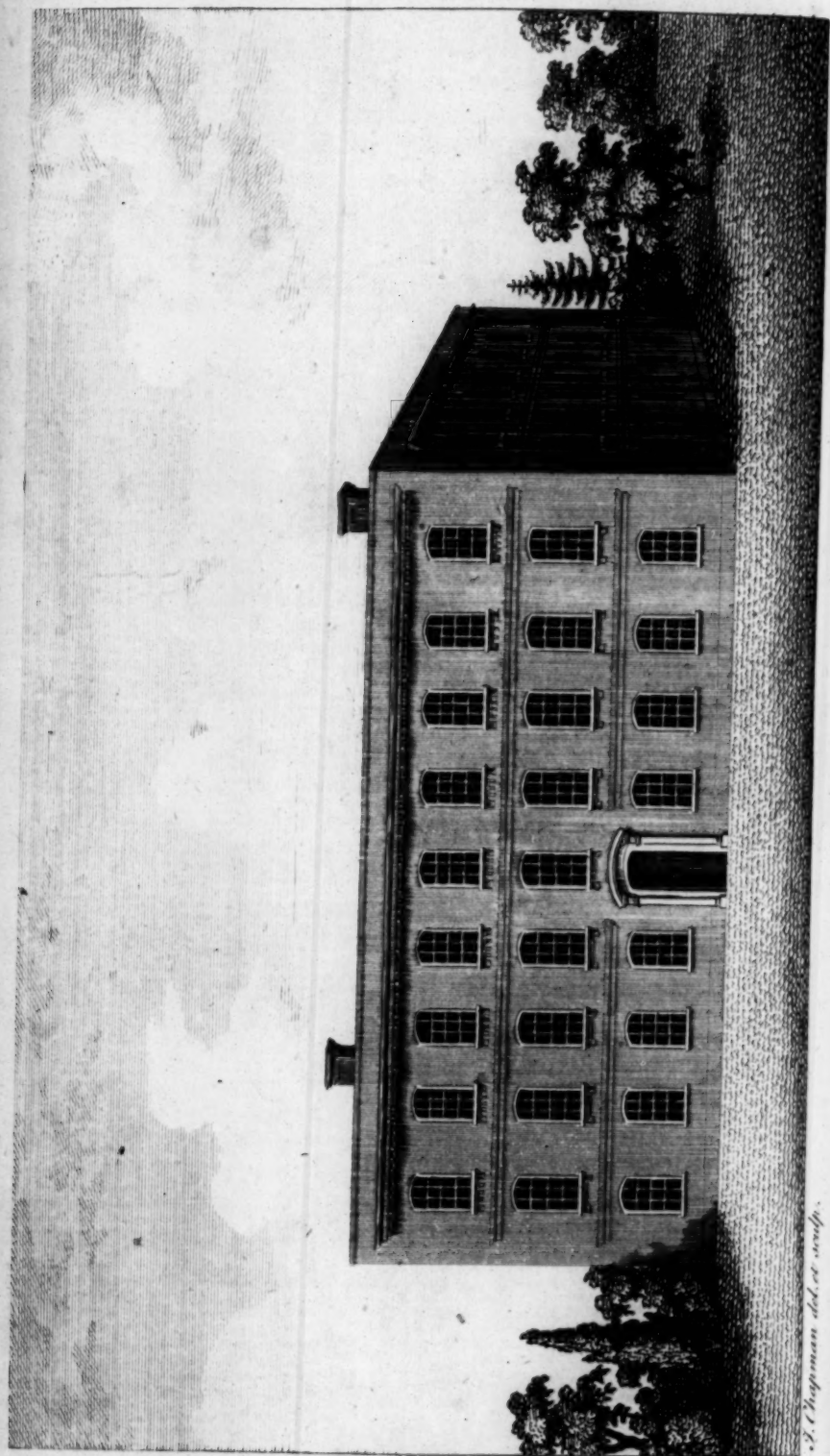
*The front of Charles Colm. Priory the seat
of Mr. Holgate*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
Scale of feet



The Back or Garden side





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of the Petre's, and is now in the same possessor as the two former.

SIR WILLIAM PETRE, at the time of his becoming proprietor of the greatest part of this parish, made Ingatestone-Hall his place of residence: and it has been ever since occupied by some of that ancient and worthy family: the present Right Hon. Lord Petre resides there, till his magnificent house at West Thorndon is finished.

INGATESTONE-HALL is a venerable stately pile of building having within a spacious court; and before it is another, round which are the offices. It lies very low, but upon that account is well supplied with waters, and stored with fish ponds: the gardens are laid out in an elegant manner; and considering the disadvantage of being situated in a valley, command a pleasing prospect towards Danbury. The whole was formerly surrounded by a park. There are now the remains of an ancient building, which has much the appearance of a chapel. It was erected by Sir William Petre in the year 1565, as appears by a painting in one of the windows of the Hall. I shall give my readers an account of this respectable and noble family, when I come to describe the superb structure erecting at Thorndon for their residence.

In this parish is a very good modern house called the HIDE, which was built by the late Timothy Brand, esq. high-sheriff for this county in 1721, and is now in possession of Thomas Brand, esq.

THERE is likewise a large ancient house upon mill-green, formerly in the possession of ——— Clutterbuck, esq. but now of Miss Hotham, sister to the late Sir Charles Hotham, bart.

Charitable Foundation in this Parish.

ON the right hand of the road leading from this town to Butsbury and Stock, there is an alms-house of brick, for ten dwellers, seven whereof are to be women, and three men. The Founder of this great charity was Sir William Petre, who at the same time endowed it with forty-eight pounds a year, paid out of Crondon park; eighteen pounds yearly from an estate called Catlyns, in Butsbury; six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, yearly, out of a farm called Ramsey Terrels; and eighteen pounds a year out of a copyhold estate belonging to Wadham College in Oxford, and situate in Fryerning, in lieu of six cows, two for the priest, and four for the poor people, that were to be fed on the manor of Ingatestone. The minister is priest to this hospital, and has four pounds per annum: six pounds in lieu of the cows; fifteen shillings for a livery or gown; and for wood yearly one pound sixteen shillings. Each of the poor hath six shillings and eight pence per month; twenty-four shillings every year for wood, and twelve shillings for a gown. Ten other common poor that have no dwelling, have two shillings and eight pence a month out of this charity. On Christmas eve there is distributed six shillings and eight pence to twenty poor people of this parish; and on Easter eve thirteen shillings and four pence to forty of the poor. At the auditing of the accounts by the ministers of Ingatestone, Munassing, and Butsbury.

Buttsbury, to be spent five shillings: there is likewise two pounds seventeen shillings and four pence to be deposited in the chest yearly toward the repairs of the hospital, and of the Lord Petre's chancel built for the poor. The whole endowment amounts to ninety pounds thirteen shillings and four pence yearly.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church, which is an exceeding good brick building, tiled, stands on the east side of the street, and hath a row of pillars in the middle, which divide it into two paces. At the west end is a high tower, in which are five bells. On the north side of the chancel is a small brick chapel, erected on purpose to be a burial place for the noble family of the Petres. The church is dedicated to the virgin Mary.

UPON the south side of the chancel, between two pillars of the church, is a very elegant Altar-monument, erected to the memory of William Lord Petre, and his Lady. It is about seven feet long, four broad, and six high. — Upon the top, which is supported by four pillars on each side, are the whole length effigies of those illustrious personages whose memory it is intended to perpetuate, wrought in curious Parian marble, with the greatest skill and judgment: His Lordship's head is supported by his helmet: his Lady's by a pillow: between each of the pillars just mentioned, and at each end, are two lines as under:

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I i

Hic

Hic sepelitur Dominus Gvlielmvs
 Petrævs eqves avratvs, cvm Do-
 mina Anna secvnda ipsivs vxore,
 Filia Gvlielmi Browne, qvi obiit
 Prætor Londinenfis. Prædictvs
 Honorabilis vir Dominus Gvlielmvs
 Petrævs Ascitvs est ab Henrico Rege Angliæ, ejvs
 Nominis Octavo, ad Officium Secretarii, et etiam
 Ut esset a privatis Consiliis. Qvo
 In statv sub Edwardo Sexto Rege
 Perseveravit, a qvo primitiarvm &
 Decimarvm Thesaurarius est consti-
 tutvs. Edwardo mortvo apvd Reginam
 Mariam eadam mvnia obivit quæ, illicvm
 Cancellareatv quoqve illustrvs ordinis garterii cvmvla-
 vit. Consiliarius etiam fvit Dominæ reginæ Elizabethæ.

In English:

Here lies interred William Lord
 Petre, Knight, with Dame
 Ann, his second wife,
 Daughter of William Browne, who died
 Lord Mayor of London.
 The aforesaid nobleman William Lord
 Petre was by summons from Henry King of England,
 The eighth of that name, called to the office of Secretary and
 To be one of his Majesty's Privy Council.
 In which station he continued under King Edward the Sixth,
 By whom he was made Treasurer
 Of the first fruits and Tents.
 After the death of Edward
 He held the same offices under Queen Mary,
 Which she conferred upon him, together with
 The Chancellorship likewise of the most noble order of the garter.
 He was too one of the council of our Lady Queen Elizabeth.

Beneath

BENEATH these lines in eight square tables of alabaster, are the family arms curiously wrought. The whole is inclosed in iron palisadoes. The arms of the family are likewise carved in basso relievo, decorated with divers ornaments, inclosed in an iron frame, and suspended above this sumptuous monument.

IN the east wall of the south ayfle is a small neat monument of costly marble: in a nyche is the representation of the person for whom it was erected, in a posture of devotion: below this effigy, upon a small table of black marble may be read

Heare lyeth enterd the body of Robert Petre
yongest brother to Sir William Petre, knt.
of Westminster in the cown. of Mid. esq.
who lyved and dyed a faythful officer
to the moste famous Queene Eliza,
in the receyte of her majesty's Exchequer.
He departed this lyfe at Weste Thorndon in Essex;
September 20,
in the year of our Lorde God 1593.

AGAINST the wall on the right hand of the south ayfle is the half-length effigy of a man, done in grey marble, inclosed in an oval stone frame; and below it is this short inscription:

Captain John Troughton;
Obiit April 1621,
Æta suæ
66.

IN the chapel, before mentioned, belonging to the noble family of Petre, against the west wall is a most superb monument, composed of many different sorts of marble: it is about eighteen feet high, and fourteen broad: under a grand arch, supported by eight pillars, four of black marble, and four of porphyry, gilt at the top, is seen the full length effigy of John Lord Petre and that of his lady kneeling, with each a book open before them; and upon a stone below these words:

Johannes Dominus Petre de Writtle, Gulielmi
Illius filius, qui quatuor Principibus, Henrico
Octavo, Edwardo Sexto, Mariæ, & Elizabethæ,
A Secretis fuit, septies itidem' legatus ad
Exteros Principes Missus, & Exoniensis Collegii
Apud Oxoniensis fundator secundus.

ON another table below, the inscription is continued as follows:

Vir quantæcunq. fortunæ capax, meliorisque particeps: ad magnas siquidem fortunas natus, nec virtutes minores, obsequens Deo, fidus principi, summâ adversus egenos miserecordiâ, adolescentia, artibus honestis, nec nisi quæ nobili decerent, acta: Mariam, Edwardi Waldegravii equitis aurati, Mariæq. a Consiliis & Secretis Filiam, lectissimam scæminam, tantiq. Mariti Thoro tumuloq. dignissimam, uxorem duxit. Et tres ex eâ filios suscepit ad huc superstites, præceptis foras, domi exemplis, ubique liberaliter, institutos. Hospitalitati indulsit adeo, ut eundem juxta patrem familias providum putes prodigumq. Raptores contra et corruptores, patriæ charitas, non dominandi libido (quæ cunctis affectibus flagrantior esse solet) pulcherrimum pectus extimulavit. Amorem plebis procerumq. amicitias habuit magis quàm ambivit, familiares semper eligens optimos, non semper optimates, potentiumque iras nec meruit, nec metuit;

ineraq.

luerat quippe menti robur et heroica quædam constantia animi corporisq. Is habitus fuit, ut nescias meliorne an major decentior an fablimior fuerit. Utriusq. sexûs, utriusq. gentis principes, Elizabetha in equitem, Jacobus in baronem, uterque ab merita, provexerunt. Talis tantusq. vir, ad omnia quæ bona essent ortus, ad meliora moriturus, lenta & languida febre, vix biennio, (quis credat) extinguitur, sine cruciatu omni & luctu, non sine omnium luctu & lachrymis.

Gulielmus Dominus Petre qui possessionibus, (utinam et virtutibus) succellit patri filius mærens merenti posuit.

IN English :

John Lord Petre, of Writtle,

Son of that William who was Privy Council to four sovereigns,
Henry the Eighth, Edward the Sixth, Mary, and Elizabeth;
And was likewise dispatched as Ambassador seven times to
Foreign Princes, and Co-founder of Exeter College in Oxford.

A person capable of adding a lustre to the most immense fortune, and not without a great share of affluence: for being born to inherit a large estate, and talents no less conspicuous, dutiful to his God, loyal to his Prince, exquisitely tender hearted to the poor, he spent his youth in the most honorable posts, and such as reflected character on the nobleman. He married Mary, daughter of Sir Edward Waldgrave, knight, and one of the privy council to queen Mary; a gallant young lady, equally worthy to grace the bed as well as tomb of so noble a husband. He had by her three sons still living, universally accomplished, by a foreign education and domestic precedents. He was such a manager in his hospitality, as one might pronounce at once, a profuse æconomist. An affection for his country, not a lust of rule (which is usually more boundless than any other passion,) roused his patriotic soul against the plunderers and seducers of it. The love of the people, and the esteem of the nobility, he rather enjoyed than courted; and chusing at all times his associates for their good, and not high qualifications, he neither deserved nor dreaded the resentment of the great, being possessed of

an

an uncommon strength of mind, and an heroic firmness in soul and body. His behaviour was such as to leave it a doubt, whether more engaging or prevailing, more modest or genteel. The sovereigns of each sex and of each kingdom raised him, both for his deserts, Elizabeth to the rank of a knight, James to that of a baron. This mighty and worthy personage, born to do every thing that was good, and dying to enjoy a better inheritance, was brought to his end by a slow dilatory fever, (if one can credit it) of almost two years standing,) without the least pain or struggle, but not without the grief and tears of every body.

William Lord Petre, his inconsolable son, who inherited his estate (I wish I could say his virtues also) erected this monument to the memory of so deserving a father.

On the left hand side of this inscription, between the four pillars which support that end of the grand arch, before mentioned, is the representation of the noble personage, whose parental duty and affection had raised this elegant memorial of his father's virtues: between the four pillars on the right-hand side is that of Catherine his lady. They are both in posture of devotion; and over the head of the latter is this short inscription:

Hic jacet D. Katharina Petre,
 Quondam uxor Gulielmi Domini Petre,
 De Writtle,
 Filia secunda genita illustrissimi Domini
 Edwardi Somerset,
 Comitis de Worcester, &c.
 Anno Ætatis Suæ XLIX, Cælestis habitationis
 avidior
 Quam longioris vitæ
 Migravit
 Die xxx Octobris, anno MDCXXIV.
 Cælene dignior
 An Mundo-
 lis est.

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED.

234

In English :

Here lieth lady Catherine Petre,
Once the wife of William Lord Petre,
of Writtle,
Second daughter of the most renowned Lord
Edward Somerset,
Earl of Worcester, &c.
Being more desirous of a mansion in the heavens,
Than of a longer life,
She departed on the 30th of October, 1624,
Aged 49.

It is contended whether more worthy of heaven or the world.

BENEATH the effigy of lady Catherine, the resemblance of five little girls, (their daughters) is curiously wrought in marble; and underneath that of Lord William Petre, are the images of their eight sons, kneeling. On the top, and in various other parts of the monument, are placed the family arms, embellished with divers ornaments.

UPON the north-side this little chapel, is a tomb, near four feet high, seven long, and three broad; the sides and ends of which are composed of a most beautiful Ægyptian marble, of the highest polish. Upon the top may be read;

D. O. M.

Certâ spe immortalitatis

Parte sui mortalis hoc tegitur marmore

MARIA,

Vidua Domini Roberti Petre, Baronis
de Writtle, Gulielmi, Johannis, & Thomæ,
una trium Baronum mater,

Quæ 13 Januarii, ann. Dom. 1684-5. Annum

Ætatis

ætatis agens 82d, in terris devixit, ut
æternum in cœlo viveret.

Quò illam singularis in Deum pietas,
Suavis in omnis benevolentia,
Profusa in egenos liberalitas,
Inconcussa in adversis patientia,

Ceu igneus Eliæ currus totidem rotis, haud. dubiè evexerunt.
Sicut sol oriens mundo in altissimo Dei ; sic mulieris bonæ species in
ornamentum domus suæ. Eccl. 26.

IN English :

To the most mighty and beneficent God.
In certain hope of immortality
this monument contains what was mortal of

MARY,

widow of Lord Robert Petre,
baron of Writtle, the only mother of three barons,
William, John and Thomas.

Who on the 13th of January, in the year of our Lord 1684-5,
and of her age 82, departed
this life on earth
for an eternal one in heaven.

Whither her unexampled piety towards God,
Her engaging goodness to mankind in general,
Her unbounded charity to the poor,
Her unshaken calmness in adversity,

Have, like the fiery chariot of Elijah, on so many wheels,
undoubtedly carried her.

SEVERAL other inscriptions over the graves of different branches of this noble family are to be met with in this place of their interment ; but as they import scarce any thing besides the name, age, and time of the decease of the persons whose memory they are placed to perpetuate, and consequently can yield but

little entertainment or information to my readers, I shall not take up their time in the perusal of them.

INGATESTONE RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

P. Lloyd, M. A. Thomas Bramstone, Esq.

March 13, 1755.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 16 13 4

£ 1 13 4

MARGARETTING

IS so called from Margaret, the Saint to which this church is dedicated; and it bears the last syllable *ing*, for the reason already given in Ingatestone and Munnassing.

It is situated about twenty-five miles from London, four from Chelmsford, and adjoins Ingatestone and Widford. The great road from London to the several places mentioned under Ingatestone lie thro' it.

THE manors in this parish are in number only three, viz. Margareting, Copfold-Hall, otherwise Cold-Hall; and Shenfield.

THE manor of Margareting, according to the best historians, and other accounts, was held in the year 1166 by John de Sandford; it came by marriage

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riage

riage into the family of the De Veres ; from this family it went by marriage into that of the earl of Surry. It was in the possession of Edmund, earl of Arundel in the reign of Edward the Second ; but he being beheaded by the procurement of Roger lord Mortimer, it was granted again to the Surry family. In 1461, John Scot, esq. held this manor. In 1592 we find it in the Petre family, and there it continues.

THE manor of Copfold-Hall, otherwise Cold-Hall, has an exceeding pleasant mansion house : being situate on an eminence, it commands an extensive view over Gallywood-common, Stock, &c. as well as toward Danbury : it is an elegant modern building with gardens laid out in a pretty taste, and is occupied by its present possessor, Richard Holden, esq. It belonged to the countess of Oxford, in the year 1360, and Thomas de Lambourne held it of them. William Cheyne, esq. possessed it in 1371 ; it was next in the Cloville family, from whence it came by marriage into that of Tanfield ; it was sold from that family to Henry Bishop, esq. (many years under-sheriff for this county,) and his two daughters and coheirs, who afterwards released their right to Bishop. Upon which he sold it Richard Benyon, esq. and he to Richard Holden, esq. as above mentioned.

SHENFIELD, altho' it is a manor, has no courts kept here. It is said to have been one of the houses of pleasure in this county, where king Henry the Eighth used to resort to his mistresses : it is called Shenfield from two Saxon words, *Scen feld*, a pleasant

ant field; but as the house lay in a bottom, the propriety of this distinction might very easily be disputed. It had many large buildings about it; was surrounded by a moat; had a draw-bridge, at the extremity of which were two strong watch towers, of brick; it had likewise a chapel adjoining to the house. Most, if not all, of the original buildings are now pulled down, and it is become the habitation of a private gentleman. — This manor was first in the family of the Gages; next, in that of the Harrys; and after this family had enjoyed it for many generations, it was sold to Robert Wood, a famous mathematician; whose heirs sold it to the family of the Alexanders, where it continues.

THERE is in this parish on the left hand side of the road leading from Chelmsford to Ingatestone, an exceeding good house belonging to Humphry Sidney, esq. Before the house is a pretty avenue of stately trees.

Charitable Donation to the Poor.

JOHN TANFIELD, esq. formerly one of the owners of Copfold manor, gave, by his will, twenty shillings yearly for ever, to be paid by the owner of Copfold-Hall, and laid out in bread on the six Sundays in Lent. Ten shillings worth to be given to the poor of this parish, and the other ten shillings to that of West Haningfield.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church is a very ancient building, dedicated to St. Mary, and in good repair. At the west end is a wooden belfry, in which are four bells; having on the top of it a small spire shingled.

IN the chancel, under the north window, is an old tomb of Mr. Bardfield's, near to which is buried John Tanfield, and in memory of him, on the north side of the east window is the remains of a mural monument, that had on it the following inscription, now defaced:

Here lies interred the body of John Tanfield, late of Copfold-Hall, esq. son and heir of William Tanfield, late of Northampton, esq. and Elizabeth his wife, sister and heir of James Clovile, esq. by Catharine his wife, daughter of George Comey, late of Colchester, esq. with whom he lived almost fifty years. He had nineteen children, whereof seven survived him, three sons and four daughters; Clovile, his eldest son, married to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir Edward Engtham, of Goodneston, in Kent, knt. William and Thomas unmarried. Dorothy, married to Thomas Denny, of Denny, alias Dennyhill, in Kent, esq. Wilgiford, married to William Hurst; Elizabeth, to George Ludlowe; and Mary, to Henry Palmers, of London, gent. He lived virtuously, and died religiously, when he had served his prince long as a justice of the peace. He was born Jan. 25. 1547, and died Oct. 5, 1625.

IN the chancel is likewise the following, upon a tomb stone in the ground:

Under this marble lies in hopes of a joyful resurrection, the body of Eliz. Borritt, who was the wife of Henry Borritt, of Stradbroke, in the county of Suffolk, gent. with the body of Martha, one of their daughters, and late the wife of Edmund Tanfield,

Tanfield, of Copfold-Hall in this parish, gent. She died June 28, 1669, aged 35. Her mother died the 9th of July, aged 58.

When Time hath marr'd this marble and defac'd
The kind memorial which on it was plac'd
Twill lose the virtue of the first intent,
No longer ours, but it's own monument:
Yet then, when scarce one letter's left behind,
'Twill serve, as now, posterity to mind
Of their mortality; for sure flesh must,
If solid marble, crumble into dust.

In the same place are several inscriptions on stones in the ground to the memory of different branches of the Whitecoombe family; and among them the following:

Sacred to the memory of Peter Whitecoombe,
late of Ingatestone, esq.
and Julian, his wife, married 42 years.
She died Jan. 12, 1666, aged 70.
He died November 12, 1666, aged 77.

She on this clayen pillow layd her head,
As brides do use the first to go to bed.
He mis'd her soone; and yet ten months he tryes
To live a part, and lykes it not, and dyes.

In the body of the church is the following inscription cut on a grave stone on the ground; which on account of the amiable character it records, and as a duty due to so worthy a man, I present to the perusal of my readers:

Here lies the body
of the Rev. Mr. William Harman,
who was vicar of this parish near 60 years.

Ho

He was a sound divine,
 orthodox in his principles,
 of a quiet and peaceable disposition,
 well beloved and esteemed,
 not only by his parishoners, but by all who had
 the pleasure of knowing him.

In short,
 he was an ornament to the sacred
 function he had the honour to bear,
 He departed this life
 Dec. 22, 1731, aged 84.

MARGARETING RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Rev. Mr. Meadowcroft.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 48 0 3

£ 0 18 2

FRIERNING

IS a parish pleasant and airy, being situated on an eminence; and is remarkable for it's good pasturage; for which reason it is one of those parishes distinguished by the syllable *ing*. It took the name of Friern from a pasture there so called, belonging to the Friers, as the whole parish was originally the property of the brethren belonging to the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. It is situate on the right hand side of the road leading from Chelmsford

ford to London, from which places it much about the same distance as Ingatestone, the lands of the two parishes being intermixed in a very intricate and confused manner. — Here is no market; but a very trifling fair for toys is held on Whitsun-Thursiday. Wood hereabout being rather more plenty than coal, is generally used for fuel.

THIS parish continued in the possession of the brethren as above mentioned, till it fell to Henry the Eighth at the general suppression; when he granted it to William Berners, esq. one of his auditors: from the Berners it came to — Whitcoome's, of whom Dorothy Wadham purchased it, and made it part of the endowment of Wadham College, Oxford, with whom it still continues; and they have also the advowson of the living.

THIS Dorothy was the second daughter of Sir William Petre, by his first wife, Gertrude, daughter of Sir John Tyrrell, of Warley. She became the wife of Nicholas Wadham, of Merryfield, in Somersetshire, esq. who left at his decease three thousand eight hundred pounds a year estate, and four thousand pounds in money; and she completed the foundation of Wadham-College, Oxford, which her husband had begun.

IN this parish, West of the church, and about a mile distant, in the road leading from Ingatestone to Ongar, is a good country seat, belonging to Richard Richardson, esq. and at present occupied by Christopher Cusac, esq.

Bene-

Benefaction to the Poor of this Parish.

By an inscription on the north side the church, it appears that, the Rev. ' Mr. Robert D'Oyly, late
' Rector, gave by his will thirty shillings a year to
' the poor of this parish, to be laid out in bread, and
' distributed at Christmas and Easter for ever, 1733.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church is of one pace with the chancel; at the west end of which is a strong tower of brick, containing four bells.

WITHIN the chancel, upon the ground, lies a black marble gravestone, in which is inlaid in brass the effigies of a man and woman; and the following words written in Old English characters, upon a label proceeding from the man's mouth: *O God, in thee have we trusted*: from the woman's: *Lord, let us not be confounded*. Below these effigies is the underwritten on a plate of brass; part of which being broken off and taken away, I am obliged to give my readers in the same imperfect state:

' Here under lyeth buried the body of Leonard Berners la-
o ----- Thyrde sonne and heyre of Wyllm Berners thelder esquier
who decef----- bruary, in the yere of oure Lorde God 136
whose soule we truste d----- Leonard had to wyfe Mary Thelde
dawter and one of the heire ----- Shenfylde, in the countye
Essex, esquier, by whome she had yssue William A-----

UNDER this inscription is the representation engraved in brass of two men dressed in the habit of Fryers, and a woman.

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED. 265

FRIERNING RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Rev. John Blake.

Wadham College, Oxf.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS,

YEARLY TENTHS,

£ 9 0 0

£ 0 18 0

BLACKMORE, sometimes called
BLAKEMORE.

IS a parish distant about twenty miles from London; nine from Chelmsford; four from Chipping Ongar, and four from Ingatestone; by which last place, Fryerning and Writtle it is bounded on the east; by Norton Mandeville and High Ongar on the north; High Ongar and Stonedon on the west; and on the south by Doddenhurft, Munassing and Shenfield. It lies low, is of a morass and cold soil; has several springs, of which those in and near the town run fleet, and are tinged with steel and sulphur: the parish is in length three miles; in breadth about one; and has two manors; viz. that of Blackmore, and the manor of Fingrith, otherwise Fingrith-hall. The village, on the south side of which stands the church, is near the center of the parish; and adjoining to the church-yard stands the manor-

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house

house of Blackmore, otherwise called Jericho, the demesne of which farm composes the greatest part of the parish. Henry the Eighth granted to the prior and convent of Blackmore a fair to be kept on their manor, which is still held on the twenty-first and twenty-second of August; chiefly for live cattle.

AFTER the dissolution king Henry the Eighth granted the manor of Blackmore, with the monastery, &c. and rectory, to John Smith, esq. and his wife, in fee; and Thomas Smith, esq. his descendant, and the last heir male sold it to Sir Jacob Acworth. Lady Avis Wheat, his daughter and heiress, and relict of Sir George Wheat, bart. is the present owner. — Tradition says, this was one of the houses of pleasure to which king Henry the Eighth used to retire: so that when this lascivious prince chose to retreat from public business, and indulge himself in the embraces of his courtezans, the cant phrase among the courtiers was, He was gone to Jericho.

THE manor of Fingrith, otherwise Fingrith-hall, stands a mile north from the town; is a large demesne, and together with the manor, includes all the rest of the parish: there are many freehold and copyhold estates held of this manor, particularly the latter: it's present lord is Thomas Ffytche of Danbury, esq.

THERE is in this parish an ancient freehold messuage and land called Copsheffs, otherwise Copsheaves, from an owner of that name: afterwards Sir Thomas Stalbrook owned it; and in the reign

of Henry the Seventh sold it to John Smyth, esq. and from that time it has been the seat of his descendants, the Smyth's of this parish, and by them called Copsheaves, otherwise Smyth's Hall. This family were by the male line descended from Sir Michael Carrington, Standard-bearer to king Richard the First, in the holy war. — Thomas Smyth, esq. was the last heir male of this family, and Mary Tending, his niece, succeeded him in this and his other estates. At her decease she devised them to her cousin Captain Alexander, the present possessor.

THIS Smyth's-hall was given by the Samford family to the priory which they had founded here for canons regular of the order of St. Augustin, dedicated to St. Laurence, and from thence came to be called the priory, or monastery of St. Laurence de Blackmore. The priory stood near the church.

WITHERSPAINS OR WITHERSPAWNS is an hamlet to Blackmore, and is in Chelmsford-Hundred, altho' it lies in the parish of High Ongar. It is but a small manor, and the property of Bramstone Baker, gent.

Charitable Donations to this Parish.

HENRY WALLER of South-Weald, did by his will dated December 7, 1601, charge his tenement and ten acres of land called Farrows, otherwise Fouchers, and a croft called Canuels, lying in High Ongar, with an annuity of forty shillings, towards

the maintenance of the poor of this parish for ever. Mr. Henry Mullot is the present owner.

TWENTY POUNDS were given to this parish by Mr. George Challice; and the interest thereof to be applied by the church-wardens yearly for ever as follows: to a minister for preaching two sermons, one on Advent Sunday, the other on the first Sunday in Lent, five shillings each sermon: one shilling each time to the minister, and the same to the sexton: the rest to be distributed among nine of the most aged poor persons of this parish; but in case the gospel should not be preached in the realm as it then was, (in 1530) the ten shillings for the two sermons should be given to the said aged nine persons. This twenty pounds, with thirty-one pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence by charitable collections; ten pounds by John Trotter, of Doddinghurst, in 1603; and three pounds, six shillings, and eight pence, given by Dr. Tabor, was deposited with Mr. John Witham late of this parish, glover, who by his will at his decease, for the better security of the poor, did charge his moiety of twenty acres of copyhold-land, called Lords land, holden of Fingrith-hall manor in this parish, with an annuity of three pounds five shillings for ever. This estate is now the property of Mr. John King.

AN annuity of forty shillings towards the maintenance of the poor for ever, was given by Mr. John Symonds, of this parish; who did, by his will, charge his croft called Little Harpers, with the payment

ment of the same. The Rev. Mr. John Tattershall is the present owner.

AN annuity of forty shillings for ever, to be distributed to eight of the poorest women of this parish, two shillings each on All Saints, yearly, in the church porch of this parish, was given by Mrs. Margaret Powle, relict of Sir Stephen Powle, knt. for the true payment of which she charged part of her estate in this parish, now Smyth's-hall, and in possession of Capt. Charles Alexander.

A FREEHOLD tenement, garden, and orchard in this parish, called Claydon's, to four inhabitants here, their heirs and assigns; in trust, to distribute the rents and profits of the same, quarterly or half yearly to six of the poorest inhabitants of this parish; after first paying the charges of the repairs, and eight pence a year for themselves. It pays one shilling and eight pence a year to the manor of Blackmore. The generous donor was Mr. George Challice of this parish, by his will, dated August 19, 1580. Two surviving feoffees to assign to four new ones.

AN annuity of one pound, to be paid yearly on Christmas-day for ever, was given by Mr. William Peacock, of this parish, taylor; for the due payment of which, he did by his will dated May 12, 1722, charge his copyhold messuage or tenement, an orchard, and an acre of land thereto belonging, in High Ongar, called King's-ridden.

HALF an acre of freehold land, at Clatterford Wash in this parish, said to be given, and always applied

applied for buying bell-ropes.—It pays four pence a year to the manor of Fingrith-hall, and has been usually let for nine shillings per annum.

A COPYHOLD messuage or tenement, with the appurtenances, and ten acres of land, more or less, called Spooner's, otherwise Lekin's, and holden of the manor of Fingrith-hall, for the best use of the poor of this parish for ever. Mr. Thomas Almond, of this parish, innholder, gave this; but he devised (by his will, dated October 9, 1728,) first this estate to his wife's niece Elizabeth Clark, wife of John Chaulk, of Stándford-Rivers, butcher, for life, and the life of her husband; and after their deaths if they left issue, and the youngest was not twenty years of age, then to such issue till the youngest were twenty years of age.—The abovesaid Elizabeth Clark, afterwards Elizabeth Chalk, widow, dying, and not leaving any issue under twenty years of age, as above specified, at the time of her decease; at a general court baron, holden for the manor of Fingrith-hall, August 31, 1767, William Chaulk, junior, of Blackmore, butcher, was by the appointment of the parishioners in vestry met, and admitted to him and his heirs, to all and singular the premises aforesaid, with the appertenances, in trust, to and for the use and benefit of the poor of the said parish of Blackmore for ever, according to the form and effect of the said will.

CHURCH,

CHURCH, MONUMENTS & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE rectory of Blackmore is an impropriation, and now in Capt. Charles Alexander. The original value or salary is six pounds, thirteen shillings, and four pence, but was augmented by the governors of queen Ann's bounty in the year 1720, by Thomas Smyth, esq. with tythes value four hundred pounds, upon his receiving the governor's two hundred. It being found inconvenient to set a-part so much of the tythes as should be worth four hundred pounds, Mary Tending, heir at law of Thomas Smyth, esq. on July 22, 1730, charged the rectory of Blackmore with the payment of a clear rent charge of twenty pounds a year in lieu thereof. — The church and chancel, are an ancient building, and by many supposed to have been part of the old priory church: it has one entire roof, supported with two rows of columns, and has two ayfles. The body is ciel'd with oak wainscot, on which are the royal arms of Richard the Second, Henry the Fourth, and those of several noble and ancient families, probably such as were benefactors to the monastery: it has a small vestry, and a ring of five bells in a double framed spire steeple. Over the door, painted in glass, is a representation of the martyrdom of St. Laurence, to whom the church is dedicated. All the church-yard it has now is a small piece of ground on the north side.

Within

WITHIN the rails, round the communion table, is a grey marble grave-stone, on the margin of which, in Saxon Characters is wrote :

To the memory of the just Prior, Thomas
De Veer.

AND on the north side the rails is another grey marble grave-stone, with the Lynche's arms, and the following epitaph ;

Here lyeth the body of Simon Lynch,
Rector of Runwell,
who for fearing God and the king,
was sequestered, prosecuted, and persecuted,
to the day of his death
by Gog and and Magog,
And left issue Elizabeth, Sarah, Symon,
and Ithuel,
unto whom the Lord be merciful.
who died the 19th of June, 1660,
aged 60 years.

AT the end of the chancel is the burial place of the ancient family of the Smyths, of this parish, in which is a very old decayed tomb, erected to the memory of Thomas Smyth, esq. who died in the year 1594, and Margaret his second wife, and relict of Sir Stephen Parvel. Their effigies at full length are fixed on this monument. Upon the floor are several other inscriptions upon the grave-stones, of different branches of the same family.

BLACK.

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED.

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BLACKMORE VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Rev. Thomas Smyth.

Capt. Charles Alexander.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 6 13 4

£ 0 13 4

WIDFORD

IS a parish containing about eight hundred acres of land; and received it's name from the width of the ford before a bridge was built over the river. It adjoins south south-west to Chelmsford, and the public road from London to that town, Norfolk and Suffolk, runs through a great part of it: Widford is but a small parish, and has only one manor, called Widford manor; which we find in the year 1329, was the property of Edmund of Woodstock, (earl of Kent, and sixth son to King Edward the First) who was beheaded for contriving the deliverance of the captive king Edward the Second. It was then given to Roger de Mortimer, earl of March; from whose family it passed into that of the Clovilles; and from them to Charles Altham, serjeant at law, who in the year 1604 built the chapel adjoining to the north side of the church: his family enjoyed it till it came by marriage to Charles Tryon, esq. of Haring-

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M M

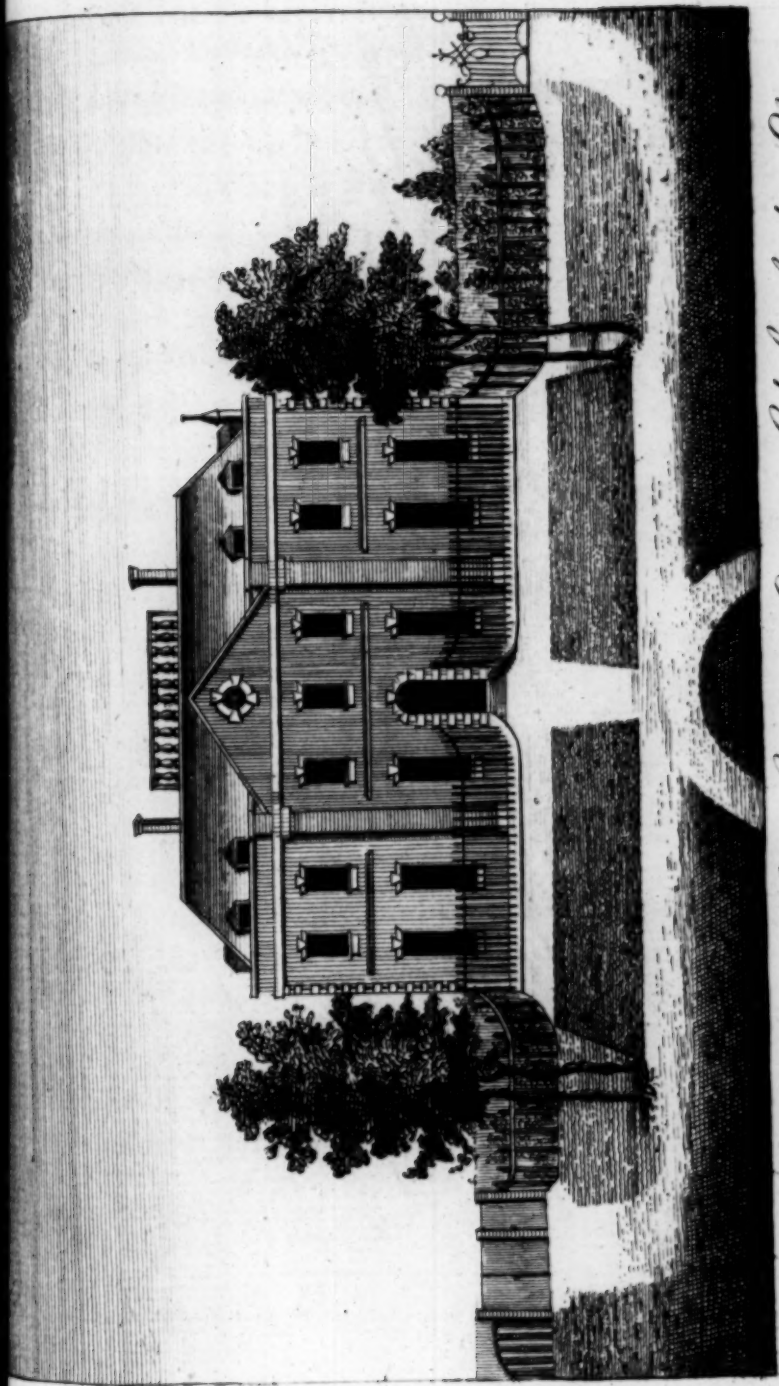
worth

worth in Northamptonshire, whose son Charles sold it to Thomas Inwin, esq. member of parliament for Southwark, who at his decease in 1743 left this estate to his widow, and she was succeeded therein by her daughter Sarah, countess dowager of Suffolk, widow of Henry Earl of Suffolk: She remarried in October, 1752, to Lucius Carey, Lord Viscount Falkland, with whom it remains.

A LITTLE beyond Widford bridge, and about a quarter of a mile from the road, on the right-hand side, in going from Chelmsford to Ingatestone, is a neat modern-built house, surrounded by a good park and pleasant gardens, well watered. It is called Highlands, from the loftiness of it's situation; which circumstance renders it very delightful from the several pleasing prospects it commands. The late Sir John Comyns, * Knight, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, erected it, and at his decease left it to his lady, and after her death to his nephew John Comyns, esq. son of his brother Richard; at whose decease it came to his son John Richard Comyns, esq. the present possessor; to whose generosity I am indebted for the elegant view of it which adorns this work.

ON the west side the London road stands the church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It is a small but ancient building, consisting of a nave and chancel, of one pace, tyled. The chapel, on the north side, is leaded, and belongs to the lords of the manor. At

* For the character of this amiable Gentleman I must refer my Readers to the inscription on his monument in Writtle church,



Hylands, the Seat of John Comyns Esq. near Chelmsford in Essex.



the west end is a wooden turret, containing two bells ; and having over it a shaft shingled. The gabel between the church and chancel is thicker than usual.

WIDFORD RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

Rev. J. Saunders.

PATRON.

Lord Falkland.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS,

£ 42 4 2

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 0 16 0

W R I T T L E.

IS a parish, adjoining westward to that of Chelmsford ; and is computed in circumference to be fifty-two miles ; upon which account it is generally allowed to be the largest in the whole county. Writtle is subject to no visitation ; and formerly was of itself a place of jurisdiction ; till at length the inhabitants assuming upon this prerogative, and refusing obedience to the summons of the sheriff at the assizes and quarter sessions, to attend upon juries, an enquiry was made into their right of exercising this authority ; which, appearing to have scarce any other foundation than that of custom, it was thought proper to lay this distinction aside ; ever since which, they have served upon those offices in common with other parishes. — They have a charter for a fair to be held annually on

on the Monday in Whitsun-week, and on the tenth day of October : but what is very extraordinary, even this advantage is not embraced, altho' no town in England could better accommodate cattle of every kind, there being so great a quantity of waste-land belonging thereto, among which we may reckon, Writtle-green, Newney-green, Oxney-green, Cocksmill-green, Hedney and Radley-greens, besides Highwood common : the fair on Whit Monday indeed is so far kept up, as to afford a shattered booth or two, stored with ginger-bread or children's toys : that of the tenth of October has been laid aside ever since the alteration of the style.

' BEFORE a bridge was built over the river at Chelmsford, (says Mr. Morant,) the public road to Braintree and several other places in the north and north-east parts of this county to London, led through Writtle ; turning the corner where is at present the sign or the Red-Cow, going on to Bayford Tye, and so quite over to Margaretting. A very large and much frequented inn, called the Swan, formerly stood in the road near the farm called Shakestone's'. And from other accounts we find, that generally, for the greatest part of the winter, all carriages, and even horsemen, travelling to Ipswich or Harwich, were obliged to go that way, the ford (Chelmsford) not being at those times passable without great danger. — The soil in this parish is rather warmer than in some of the neighbouring ones, and in general produces excellent wheat.

Mr. Stow, in his annals, informs us, that about a quarter of a mile out of the green, on the left hand side of the road leading to Chelmsford, a palace was built in the year 1211, by king John; some of the foundations of which have not long since been dug out of the ground: the buildings are supposed to have covered an acre of ground, surrounded by a very deep mote.

THIS extensive lordship, in the time of Edward the Confessor, belonged to the earl of Harold, who succeeded that monarch in the government of the kingdom. Upon his being killed in battle, it fell to William the Confessor; who at the general survey held a great part of this parish as the king's fee: Robert Lofinga held another part; and Newland-hall, in Roxwell, was holden by Eustace earl of Bologn, who (as the reader may perceive in the course of this work,) had very extensive possessions in this county

In the farm called the Lordship, the court baron is kept: but the court leet is held at Green-Bury, or Little Green, upon Trinity-Tuesday. The market-place formerly stood near it; but is now pulled down.

THE manor of Writtle was part of the Corpus Comitatus of Essex. In the time of king Henry the Third, it was the property of Phillip de Albene, and after him, of William Long Espee, earl of Salisbury. In the fourteenth year of this monarch's reign, it was in the bishop of Chichester, lord chan-

cellor of England; at his decease his sister enjoyed it. After having been the possession of divers families, we find it was part of the estate of Thomas Woodstock, earl of Buckingham, Essex, and Northampton, duke of Gloucester, and high constable of England, who in September 1397, (as I before observed) fell a sacrifice to the malice of his enemies. — Next it was the property of Thomas, and afterwards of Edmund earl of Stafford; which last was killed at the battle of Shrewsbury in July 1403. — His son Humphry, duke of Buckingham, earl of Hereford, Stafford, Northampton and Perch; lord Brecknock and Holderness succeeded him in his estate; but he being slain at the battle of Northampton in July 1450, fighting valiantly for king Henry the Sixth; and his son Humphry earl of Stafford, having been killed in 1455 at the battle of St. Alban's, his grandson succeeded him. He was one of the principal instruments in placing the crown upon the head of Richard the Third; but afterwards declaring against that usurper, he was beheaded in 1460, and his estates given by Edward the Seventh to his eldest son Edward. — Unfortunate like his predecessors, he was (through the malice and revenge of cardinal Wolley,) beheaded in May 1521; when his estates fell to the crown. Where we find them till queen Mary, in 1553, granted this manor, among other estates, to Sir William Petre, knt. in which family it now remains.

THERE were formerly in this parish of Writtle

two parks; one distinguished by the name of the King's, or Writtle Park; which still bears the same name, lies towards Ingatestone, and is both very extensive and pleasant. An excellent ancient house thereupon, that has at different times been the seat of several gentlemen of fortune, is now occupied by ——— Jessop, esq. It has belonging thereto some very pleasant gardens. The other park was called Hoastly, or Osterly park; the old name was Horsfrith; but it has been disparked for a considerable time.

AMONG the records of the chamberlains of the exchequer's office there is a perambulation of a forest, in this parish, which belonged to king Edward the First; but I cannot learn any tidings of the time when it was disafforested, or to whom it was given by the crown,

FROM this noble lordship of Writtle, at various times have been parcelled out nine different manors, or reputed manors; which are Rolston's, Shakestone's, Fidler's, Turge's, Hasel's, More-hall or Stanford's, Bower's, Bedeli's hall, and Benedict-Otes.

ROLSTON'S was named after a family who enjoyed it, surnamed de Rollestone: the manor house of which is agreeably situated on the right hand side of the road leading from Writtle church to Blackmore: its distance from that church is about half a mile. — In the year 1543 it was the property of the King, and held at the rent of twenty-five shillings per annum,

annum, though the reputed value was then estimated at eight pounds a year. It was next in the Apley family: of whom it was purchased by William Wiseman; and from him, in the year 1657 it fell to Elizabeth Wiseman, who eight years afterwards sold it to John Adams; whose family have enjoyed it for several years, and it is now in Miss Adams.

SHAKESTONE'S was for a considerable time in the family of the Asleys; from them it came to the families of Browne, Rogers, and Plummer. The latter of which sold it to Sir John Comyns, knt. and it is now in the possession of John Richard Comyns, esq. of Highlands. It has a mansion house on the side of the road leading from Writtle church to Margaretting.

THE manor of Fidlers has a mansion house situate a little out of the road on the right hand side, leading from Writtle church to Blackmore: about three miles south west of the church. It received the name of Fidler's by contraction from Fitheler's, or Vitheler's, the surname of a family of great antiquity. In the year 1465 it was in the family of the Jocelyns: some time after it came into the Petre family, where it has continued ever since, being at this time enjoyed by the right hon. lord Petre.

TURGES stands about a mile north-west from the church; it hath been formerly the seat of several persons of rank, among whom, we are told, was Ralph Neville, bishop of Chichester, and chancellor of England. — This manor was for a considerable time in

in the Pinchon family. The manor of Turges belonged afterwards to William Wolfe; was next in John Wolfe; and is now in Mr. Webb of Hammer-smith, and Miss Petre, a minor.

THE manor of Haset's was formerly in the same hands as Turges, has undergone the like changes; and is now possessed by the same proprietors.

MOREHALL is a small manor, the mansion of which stands in the road to Highwood, about a mile north-west from the church: it belongs to Wadham-college, Oxford: the Wardens and some of the Fellows of which come yearly in the Whitsun-week, and hold a court here.

BAWERS, BURROWES, or BARROWES is situate near Edney common in that part of the parish of Writtle known by the name of Highwood. It formerly was possessed by the Luckyn family; was next in that of Brand, and now belongs to Wadham College.

BEDEL'S-HALL has a good mansion, seated on the right-hand side of the road leading from Pleshey to Chignall Smeley, not far from Dyves-hall; and is about four miles north-east from Writtle church. Formerly a cross stood at the meeting of the three different ways, called Bedel's cross. — This manor, which is one of the four hamlets belonging to Writtle parish, was holden at the time of the general survey, by Robert Gernon, lord of Stansted Montfitchet; and from his family passed into that of De Veres, earls of Oxford; in the reign of queen Elizabeth we find it held by William Bedel, gent. and from

his

his family it passed into that of Christopher Glascock, clerk, who was upwards of forty years master of Felsted school in this county; at the decease of his son it was purchased by Job Maple, clerk, vicar of Boreham; from whom it went by marriage into the family of Wallace, where it continues.

BENEDICT OTES is a manor, the mansion house of which stands on the right side of the road from Roxwell to Chelmsford, not far from Cooks-mill green, and about three miles north-west from Writtle church. It took its name, as most others have done, from an ancient possessor. — Having originally belonged to Mountney's chantry, at the dissolution it was granted to Sir John Pergant, and Thomas Reve: from whom we find it passed to the families of Sir John Cary, John Agmondasham, and Petre; and is now in William Petre, esq.

NEW HOUSE, below the mill on Cook's mill green, in this parish is a very good estate, having an ancient mansion belonging thereto, and is now the property of Thacker Nightingale, esq.

THERE is a farm in this parish called Beaumont Otes, in the road from Chignal Smeley to Chelmsford, belonging to the right hon. lord Petre.

BESIDES those already mentioned there are two very good estates in this parish, one called the Great Water-house; the other the Little Water-house: and are both the property of ——— Frane, of Serjeant's-inn, Fleet-Street, esq. — They are
named

marred from their low situation; in particular the former, which in times of very great rains is surrounded by water, and the passage to and from it rendered it impassable unless in a boat: the rise of the water at this place is astonishing; insomuch that in October, 1762, some gentlemen who had been there upon a visit to Samuel Lewin, esq. the present occupier, and had staid only a few hours in diverting themselves by forming a little concert, upon their return very narrowly escaped perishing, in attempting to pass the waters in their carriages: with very great difficulty some, and after the most imminent danger others escaped; but a gentleman who kept in the coach, (Mr. Warricker, of Baddow,) was with it and the horses carried away by the strength of the stream, and it was near three days before either he or the carriage were taken out. — Notwithstanding the situation is such, the lands belonging to them both are exceeding fertile; and as such an accident had no precedent to alarm those gentlemen, the catastrophe already recited will doubtless guard every future occupier or frequenter of this place from the like accident; and this indeed I must confess, (as well as the entertainment of my reader,) to be my chief inducement for reciting it.

Charitable gifts to the poor of Writtle.

HOOKS' FARM, and fifty acres of land in Writtle, was given by Mr. Thomas Hawkins September 10, 1500, to William Carpenter, the then vicar, and others,

others, for the use of such poor people as should from time to time, dwell in six alms-houses in the church-yard of Writtle; continued down by feofment, by the three or four survivors. The vicar and church-wardens to place or displace the poor people. These, and five other alms-houses contiguous, are repaired at the charge of the parishioners.

Two pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence, yearly, was given by William Horne, of London, grocer, July 1, 1591, out of his messuage, tenement, stables, haylofts, yard,, with the appertenances, in the Wrestlere, in the parish of Saint Ethelburgh, in Bishops-gate street, London, to be laid out in bread. — By decree of chancery, in 1569, this sum was ordered to be paid in the south church porch of Writtle, every Christmas and Midsummer days.

THREE pounds yearly, to be laid out in bread, and distributed to the poor, was given by Dorothy Davis, April 13, 1634. Secured upon an estate called Bogoses in Roxwell.

TWENTY shillings yearly was given by Mrs. Eleanor Jones, August 10, 1737; for the payment of which she has charged her freehold messuage in Writtle, called the New-house, (now in Thacker Nightingale, esq.) To be laid out in bread by the owners thereof for the time being, and distributed on Christmas-day in every year.

Two tenements, for the dwelling of two sole persons for life; and twenty shillings per annum for their better maintenance; by Mr. Edward Hunt: See the

the inscription on his monument in Writtle church,
page 294.

Gifts to Writtle Church.

BUMPSTEAD's farm, sixteen pounds a year.

PARKER's tenement in Greenbury.

EAST-HAYES, otherways Polly's, in Church-haw
street, were all given to beautify and adorn the church.

To the poor monks twenty shillings a year out of
a farm at Chalk-end, in Roxwell.

A TENEMENT in the occupation of Joseph Hunt.

Two shillings a year out of a piece of ground
near the leet.

Abbey-Lands.

IN the middle of a wood called Highwood-quarter,
about four miles north-east from the church, was a
hermitage; the founder of which was one Robert,
a monk: King Stephen, at the time of his found-
ing it, granted him not only the necessary grounds,
but also whatever wood he wanted for the building:
he likewise gave him pasture for his cattle, and
greatly assisted him in the undertaking. From this
Robert it went to the abbot and monks of St. John's,
at Colchester; who had several additional benefacti-
ons and assistances granted them by king Henry the
Second. However it fell a sacrifice, with many
others, to king Henry the Eighth, who granted
their hermitage and lands to Robert Tirwhit, esq.
and he sold them to Philip Lantall; from whom they
were alienated to Sir William Petre, knt. and in his
VOL. I. No. 8. O o posterity

posterity they still continue. At the dissolution they were called Barrows and Salmons.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church, dedicated to All Saints, is a strong building, covered with lead; it consists of a body, two noble ayles, a lofty tower of stone, having a lanthorn at top, and in the tower, eight bells. — In the year 1143, this church and its appertenances was given by king Stephen to the monks of Bermondley in Surry; and afterwards by king John to the hospital of the Holy Ghost, at Rome, belonging to the English, to maintain the poor there; which being an hospital alien, was seiz'd by the crown: in 1399 William Wickham, bishop of Winchester, and founder of New College, Oxford, having obtained a grant thereof, settled it upon the warden and fellows of that college, who have been the proprietors of the rectory, patrons of the vicarage, and ordinaries ever since: being a peculiar jurisdiction belonging to New College, it is subject in all spiritual matters to such commissary as is constituted by the warden and fellows of that house; for which reason it is exempt from episcopal visitation.

THE rectory of this parish is a manor, called the manor of Romans fee, or rectoria de Writtle, otherwise Roman, on account of the rectory's belonging to the aforesaid hospital at Rome: the court is kept at the parsonage house. The rectory and vicarage are adjoining, and both pleasantly situated on the south

side

side of the church-yard. The latter is entirely new-built by the present incumbent the Rev. Mr. Eyre, who has likewise laid out the gardens belonging to the same in a neat pretty manner.

This parish, not only on account of it's largeness, but of it's consequence in former times, as well as on that of the pleasantness of it's situation, has been the residence of many wealthy families; on which account the church is supposed to contain more marble monuments and memorials than any other throughout the county. Among the several I shall give my readers an account of, I think none more worthy his attention both for the excellency of the workmanship and peculiarity of the design, than one placed against the wall on the north side of the chancel: it is a composition of divers kinds of marble, and of alabaster; in height about sixteen feet; and in breadth six. Between two pillars, supporting an elegant cornice, is seen a beautiful representation of an angel, with the strongest expression of sorrow pictured in the countenance, as is possible for the most feeling mind to conceive: in the left hand is held a sickle; and the right hand rests upon part of the cornice. Over the head is a glory, upon which is wrote;

Sol Justitia.

In English:

The Sun of Righteousness.

UPON part of the cornice this line:

Vos estis Dei Agricultura.

O O 2

IV

IN English:

Ye are God's Husbandry.

THE figure I have just mentioned, stands upright upon a rock, placed upon several wheatsheafs: upon the rock is wrote;

Petra Erat X. P. S.

IN English:

That rock was Christ.

AND upon the bands of the wheatsheafs,

Si non moriatur non reviviscit.

IN English;

If a corn of wheat fall not into the ground it cometh not up again.

BENEATH, upon a small ornament of this elegant piece of sculpture is written;

Nos sevit, fovet, lavit, coget, renovabit.

IN English;

HE who has planted, nourished, and expiated for us, will assemble and restore us.

IN a line with the last written, upon a pillar on each side it;

Messores congregabunt.

IN English;

The reapers will gather us.

UNDER this last inscription is the likeness of a fan, used in husbandry; within which, upon a scroll of paper, is this inscription:

M. S.

EDWARDUS PINCHON, et DOROTHEA WESTON, una olim caro

Unum nunc cadavar, hoc in tumulo Christum expectat,

Vixere

Vixere singulari erga Deum fide,
 Pari inter se concordia,
 Nec alia erga homines charitate.
 Hoc si filio maestissimo dicenti non credas,
 Interroga viciniam.
 Interim cave mali quicquam de illis dicas,
 Nam etiam mortui bene audiunt.

In English ;

In memory of the dead.

John Pinchon and Dorothy Weston, once one flesh,
 Now one carcase, wait for, in this tomb, the coming of Christ.
 They lived a pattern of matchless faith towards God ;
 Of mutual harmony to one another,
 And reciprocal love towards men,
 If you cannot believe this on the word of an inconsolable son,
 Consult the neighbourhood.
 In the mean time beware uttering any harm of them,
 For even the dead ought to be well spoken of.

THE arms of this family are carved, painted and gilt, within the resemblance of a shovel under the fan: and below them, inlaid in brass, in three small tables of marble are three more coats of arms of the same family.

On each side this monument, close to the pillars, is the representation of two angels, weeping. They are cloathed as servants in husbandry: and the monument throughout is decorated with all the different implements used in that business.

NEAR this, and against the same wall, in the the chancel, is another monument, which wears the appearance of great antiquity: it is small, but composed of the most valuable sorts of marble: upon it
 is

is represented the father with his four sons on one side, the mother and her six daughters on the other: between the father and mother is a small stand, bearing a book for each, opened: They all appear in posture of devotion. Over their heads, in a plate of brass, is this inscription;

Hunc pariisse putes! Minime; mors janua vitæ est.

Grata Deo fuerat mors sua, vita viris.

Dilexit multos fuit & dilectus ab omni.

Ille Deum Deus, hunc eligit esse suum.

Esse homo desivit, cum ceperit angelus esse,

Cessat et esse suis, possit ut esse Deo.

In English;

Do you think this man dead! It cannot be. Death is the passage to life.

His death was as pleasing to God as his life had been to man.

As he loved, so was he beloved by all.

As he chose God for, so God chuses him for, his own.

He ceased to be a man as he grew to be an angel;

And he relinquished his own to remain with his God.

UNDER the effigies, in another plate of brass, it wrote;

Neere unto this place resteth in peace the body of Edward Elliott late of Newland, in the countye of Essex, esq. son of John Elliott, of Stratford, in the countye of Hertforde. He tooke to wyfe Jane, one of the daughters of James Gedge, son and heire of Margaret Gedge, one of the daughters and heires of Thomas Bardfield, of Shenfield, in the countye aforesayd; by whome he had yssue iiii sonnes and vi daughters, whereof he leaveth living three sonnes and five daughters. They lived together in married estate xxxviii. yeres, and he deceased the xxii day of Decemb. in the yere of our Lorde 1595, *Ætatis suæ* 60.

Above

ABOVE and below are different arms of the family, with divers decorations.

UPON the south side the chancel is an elegant monument, almost new, in memory of the Right Honorable Sir JOHN COMYNS, *knt.* In height it measures about fourteen feet; in width seven: Upon a tomb of various sorts of marble, stands his bust, dressed in his baron's robes; on each side of which is an urn: Upon a swelling entablature of beautiful grey marble, bordered with porphyry, is engraved the character of this celebrated Judge, as follows:

Near this place lies interred,

The body of that great and good man,

The Right Honourable Sir JOHN COMYNS, *knt.*

Late Lord Chief Baron of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer.

Universally esteemed

One of the brightest ornaments of the bench,

And ablest lawyer of his time;

Who departed this life on the 13th day of November, 1740,

Aged 73.

That a character of so much piety, learning, and merit, should not be buried in oblivion, but remain a shining example to others—

This monument,

(Out of duty and gratitude)

Was humbly erected to his memory

By his nephew and heir

JOHN COMYNS, of Hylands, *esq.* 1759.

—— Cui pudor & Justitiæ soror
Incorrupta fides, nudaque veritas,
Quando ullum invenient parum.

In

In English;

— Oh when shall faith of soul, sincere,
 Of justice pure the sister fair,
 And modesty, unspotted maid,
 And truth, in artless guise array'd,
 Among the race of human kind
 A match to this Justinian find!

FRANCIS HOR.

UPON a large pirimidal entablature of black marble is engraved the family arms, which are painted gilt, and encompassed by a neat border of alabaster.—The whole of the workmanship is masterly, the design of the artist elegant; and the intention of the worthy person who erected it, not only gratified in paying a debt of affection and regard; but I will venture to affirm, his gratitude to his benefactor will be as conspicuous to posterity as those virtues the monument perpetuates.

UPON the floor in the chancel is a stone, recording the death of John Pinchon, of Writtle, esq. (son of Sir Edward Pinchon) July 30, 1654.—Of John, his son, in 1672, and of Ann, wife to the last named John, in 1675.

CLOSE thereto, on a black marble tomb-stone, is wrote;

Infra jacet, quod reliquum est

Rev. JOHANNIS BIRCH, LL. B.

Ecclesiæ { de Corringham } in Agro Essex, { Rectoris.
 { de Margaretting } { Vicarii.

Vir fuit

Ingenuus, Doctus, Amabilis, Jucundus,

Tàm suavitate quam sanctitate morum,

Insignis.

Multi ille Bonis flebilis obiit.

Ma

Nono Kalendarum Martii

Anno { Domini 1734,
Ætatis 43.

In ejus memoriam conjugalís Pietatis et Amoris

ergo mæstissima conjux

Hoc monumentum collocari voluit.

Thus Englished :

Beneath lies the remains of

The Rev. JOHN BIRCH, bachelor of laws,

Rector of Corringham, and

Vicar of Margaretting, in the county of Essex.

He was a gentleman

Of family, learned in his profession;

Of an engaging behaviour, and chearful temper;

As remarkable for the amiableness as well as the goodness
of his morals.

How did the good, the virtuous mourn,

And pour their sorrows o'er his urn!

He died on the 21st of February, in the year of our Lord 1734

Aged 43.

Out of conjugal love and affection his disconsolate widow

Ordered this monument to be erected to his memory.

UPON the ground close to the communion rails, are several stones to the memory of divers branches of the Comyns family. Here are likewise many to different branches of the Petre family, of Fithlers; the most ancient of which that I can discover is one by the south door of the church, to the memory of Elizabeth, wife to John Petre, of Fithlers, esq. who died in August, 1658.

WITHIN the east wall of the north ayfle is a plate

of brasse, gilt; on which is engraven the effigies of a man and woman kneeling; having between them a book opened: above these effigies is the representation of a human skull; and beneath them this inscription:

Nearre to this place resteth the body of Edwarde Hunt, late of Wryttle, gent. who lyvinge was much beloved; releevd the poor, and by his last wyll gave in perpetuytie two alms-houses in church-lane, with an yerely allowance of twentye shyllynges for their better maintenance. And also hath willed for ever to the poor of this parish, to be yerely distributed on Good Fridaye, x shillings, whiche sommes are lymmatted to be paid out of a parcel of lande called Appesfield in Chelmsforde parishe. As by his sayde will at large appeareth.

CLOSE to the effigy of the man are these words:

Obiit xiii die Aug. 1606.

In English:

Deceased the 13th of August, 1606.

By the representation of the woman:

Vivit post funera virtus

In English:

Virtue survives death.

WITHIN Writtle church are likewise many inscriptions, intended to perpetuate the memory of some of the Bramstone family; among which in particular are severall of the descendants of Sir Moundesford Bramstone; whose son Thomas, of the Waterhouse was one of the clerks of the high court of chancery,
and

and member for Maldon in several parliaments. He died May 30, 1737, and was buried here.

WRITTLE VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Phillip Eyre, L. L. B.

New College, Oxford.

ROXWELL

IS a chapelry, or hamlet, belonging to the parish of Writtle; and doth not appear ever to have been a distinct parish, at least presentative. — Many persons have looked upon it only as a chapel of ease to Writtle: but if it is so, the inhabitants of Roxwell are not under any obligation to contribute to the repairs of Writtle church, as appears by a very old deed in the possession of Thomas Berney Bramstone, esq. It is dated November 16, 1597, is signed by a great many of the principal inhabitants of Writtle; and sets forth ‘that having received of the inhabitants and *parishioners* of Roxwell, towards the reparation of the church and steeple of Writtle, twenty pounds, which said sum we acknowledge to have received of their liberal and *free gift*, and in no respect of duty. And for the establishing a perpetual peace and amity, and for the avoiding any further question or controversy, that may grow hereafter between us and the said inhabitants of Roxwell, for any right or duty

‘ towards the maintenance of our church and steeple,
 ‘ do by these presents, relese, acquit, and discharge,
 ‘ the said inhabitants and parilhioners of Roxwell off,
 ‘ and from all manner of claims, rights, duties and
 ‘ demands that we, our heirs or successors, may have
 ‘ against the sayd inhabitants of Roxwell, as for and
 ‘ concerning any duty or demand for and towards the
 ‘ maintenance, repair, or re-edifying of our said
 ‘ church and steeple of Writtle. In witness, &c.’

THIS place is remarkably cold in it's soil; and from the number of springs that are every where found in it, upon digging a few feet into the earth, is supposed to have taken its name. It lies from Chelmsford about five miles north west, in the road leading to Ongar, and contains about two thousand acres of land.

THE several manors herein, are all within the great manor of Writtle; of which Skreens and Dukes are not holden but of the king in capite. They are six in number; viz. Boyton-hall, Skreens, Tye-hall, Mountneys, Dukes, Newland-hall.

BOYTON-HALL has been distinguished at different times by various names; such as Boyton-cross and Boyton-magna. — It is supposed, as there was formerly a great thoroughfare thro' this manor, that a cross was affixed here; from which circumstance it took its name Boyton-cross. — It always went with that of Writtle, as part of the demesns. In the year 1546 Henry duke of Buckingham was possessed of this manor, as well as of Writtle; which being forfeited

ited to the crown upon the attainder of one of his successors, queen Mary the First granted them to Sir William Petre, knt. in whose posterity they still continue.

SKREENS is a manor, the mansion house of which stands on the left side the road going from Roxwell to Shellow, about a mile distance from Roxwell church: it is a large handsome modern building, erected by the late benevolent and much-esteemed possessor Thomas Bramstone, esq. It has a park and pleasant gardens around it, which have been much improved by the present worthy owner Thomas Berkeley Bramstone, esq. — This manor, (as indeed do the generality of them) takes its name from a very ancient possessor, William Skreene, of Writtle, and of Clifford's-inn, who we find enjoyed this estate in the year 1409: in his family it continued many generations, and afterwards went to William lord Hastings: it next was in the family of Farmer; but one of them being attainted of high treason in the year 1644, king Henry the Eighth granted it to Richard Sampford, yeoman; who alienated it to Richard Weston, esq. in whose family it continued many years, and was purchased of them in the year 1635 by Sir John Bramstone, knt. lord chief justice of the king's bench; in which respected family it now remains, as I observed before.

TYE-HALL has a good mansion house, moated round, and stands at some distance from the road on the left hand between Roxwell and Skreens. — It has

has been possessed at different times by the following families: viz. the great family of Heveningham in Suffolk: and went by marriage into that of Thomas, from thence it passed to those of Walter, Sir Jerom Weston, and Sir Richard, earl of Portland. It is now in Thomas Barney Bramstone, esq.

MOUNTNEY'S MANOR has a large mansion standing on the left side the road leading from Boyton-cross to Margaret-Rothing; and about half a mile from Newland-hall: it seems to have been formerly a very considerable seat. — This manor was originally in the family of the Mountneys, from whom it took it's name: and afterwards in those of Boseham; Robert Braybroke, bishop of London; Skreens; Fermers; Lukyns, and is now in John Bullock, esq. of Faulkbourne hall, in this county, and member of parliament for Maldon.

DUXE'S is a reputed manor, the mansion of which stands at the upper end of Roxwell-street, on the right side of the road leading from Roxwell church to Skreens. It is supposed to be called Dukes from some of the noble Dukes that held the lordship of Writtle. — We find it belonged to the family of Skreens; but can trace no further of it than its belonging for a considerable time past to the family of Crush; and is now enjoyed by Richard Crush, gent. of the same family.

NEWLAND-HALL is a manor, that formerly was a villa of itself; it is exempt from the payment of tythe; has a venerable large old mansion, on the left hand

land of the road leading from Boyton-crofs to Margaret-Rothing, about a mile from Roxwell church: It belonged to king Harold before the conquest; and in the reign of king Henry the Eighth was one of the places of retirement in this county frequented by that lascivious monarch. Behind the house is an exceeding fine piece of water; and formerly between that and the house stood a chapel.—A considerable family, in the year 1210, were possessed of this manor, and took their surname from it; in whose posterity it remained for a length of years: next it was in the Berefield family; and from them descended to that of Gedge: we find it next in that of Elliott, and it passed therefrom into that of the Thwaites. Richard How, of Skendon Masay, esq. purchased it of the Thwait family, and left it, at his decease, to William Taylor, of Great Hadham, in Hertfordshire, esq. whose son now enjoys it, and hath taken the name of William Taylor How.

In Roxwell are some hop-grounds; and about a mile west of the church, stands an over-shot corn-mill.—Just beyond Boyton-crofs is a water called Bateman's, and which in time of great rains is very dangerous to pass through.

The Benefactions to the Poor of Roxwell

ARE very scanty indeed; for except twenty shillings a year, called Monk's gift, paid by T. Nightingale, esq. out of a farm at Chaik-end; and about six and eight pence by Mr. George Chevely, I find

find the inhabitants for the time being are the only contributors towards their relief.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS

THE church is a good stone building, of one pace; on the left hand side the road leading to Shelflow Bowels; about five miles from Chelmsford and two from Writtle. At the west end is a wooden turret, in which are three bells. The inside is in good repair, and remarkably neat, particularly the chancel; upon the south corner of which is a marble monument, bearing an inscription as follows;

Hic situm est corpus

JOHN BRAMSTON, equitis aurat. ROGERI BRAMSTON,
Armigeri, & PRISCILLÆ CLOVILLIÆ Filii

Qui

Cantab. in Colleg. Jes. omnibus bonis litteris

Lond. in Templo Medjo. Juris prudentiæ operam dedit

Eo successu ut factus sit

Cantab. Advocatus simul ac forum attigerat;

Postea

Judex Eleensis Regi Serviens ad Legem

Primarius Judex Regiorum Subselliorum

Primis nuptiis Duxit Bridget Moundesford,

Honestissimâ Familiâ Natam;

Secundis Elizam Brabazan, Filiam Dom. Baronis

Brabazan in Hiberniâ.

Vir

Morum Antiquorum, & religionis non novissimæ,

Innocentissimus Nocentium castigatior,

Severus, Placidus, Gravis, Comis,

In mutuis ipsorum civilium bellorum odiis nulli homini

Nedum Parti Invisus

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED:

301

22 Die Septemb. An. Dom. 1654, Ætat. suæ 78.

Tres filios totidemq. Filias, modicas opes, optimam famam,

In Terris Relinquens,

Cælum petiit

Quod tibi optem amplius, qui ista legis.

Ambitione, Ira, Donoq. potentior omni,

Qui Judex aliis lex fuit ipse sibi.

Qui tanto obscuras penetravit lumine causas,

Ut convicta simul pars quoque victa foret

Maximus interpres, cultor sanctissimus æqui,

Hic jacet, heu! tales mors nimis æqua rapit

Hic alacri expectat supremum mente tribunal,

Nec metuit Judex Judicis ora sui.

Latinissimum hoc epitaphium, et elegantissima

Hæc carmina, (ab Abrahamo Cowleio composita)

Diu abdita, marmori inscribi voluit

Thomas Bramstone, Armiger, Prædicti John, Pronepos,

Quod summi poetæ admiratus sit ingenium,

Et justî judicis adveneratus memoriam.

1732

In English;

Here lies the body of

Sir JOHN BRAMSTONE, Knt. son of ROGER BRAMSTONE, esq.

And PRISCILLA CLOVILLE;

Who

Pursued his Studies in the different branches of useful knowledge

At Jesus College, in Cambridge;

And in the Law in the Middle Temple, London,

With such success, that he was made

Solicitor of Cambridge as soon as he was called to the bar;

After that

Judge of Ely, King's Serjeant at Law,

And Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

His first wife was Bridget Moundeford,

Vol. I. No. 8.

Q q

Descended

THE HISTORY OF

Descended of a very genteel family :
His second, Elizabeth Brabazan, daughter of
Lord Baron Brabazan, in Ireland.

This Worthy,
Of old honest Principles, and the established religion,
The most lenient punisher of the criminal,
Impartial, easy, serious, affable,
Giving no offence to a single person, much less to either side,
During the reciprocal disturbances in the civil wars,
On the 22d of December,
In the year of our Lord 1654, and of his age the 78th,
Leaving behind him three sons and as many daughters,
A moderate fortune and unblemished character,
Went to heaven.
What can I wish better to the reader of these lines!

Superior to ambition, passion, and every species of corruption,
He, who was a judge of others, was a law to himself.
He decided the most intricate points of law with such a perspicuity,
That the convict was at the same time convinced.
The most able expounder of the law ;
The most upright observer of justice lies here !
Alas ! too-impartial Death carries off the best !
This so great a man chearfully waits for his final doom ;
Nor after having been a Judge, does he dread the appearance of his
Judge.

This truly Latin epitaph, and very elegant composition in verse,
(By Abraham Cowley,)
After being a long time concealed, was by order of
John Bramstone, esq. great grandson of the aforesaid John,
Engraved on a marble stone,
Out of esteem of the genius of so excellent a poet,
And a venerable regard for the memory of so
upright a Judge.

OVER the south door of the church is a neat monument of Ægyptian marble, which has this inscription ;

Near this place lies buried the body of Sir John Bramstone,
 Kat. Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench in the reign of
 King Charles the First.

He died Sept. 22, 1654, in the 78th year of his age.

And of Sir John Bramstone, his eldest son,

Knight of the Hon. Order of the Bath,

Who died Feb. 4, 1699,

In the eighty ninth year of his age.

OVER this inscription is the family arms.

AGAINST the walls of the south-west corner of the chancel, is a very neat and well-executed monument of white and black marble. Upon the upper part is seen the representation of a little boy, leaning upon, and weeping over an half bust of the lady to whose memory the monument is erected. Below the bust, &c. is inscribed as follows ;

Sacred to the memory of the hon. MARY BYNG,

(Whose remains, at her own request, are here deposited)

She was second daughter and co-heiress of John Bramstone,

Of Chigwell, in the county of Essex, esq.

By Mary, his wife, daughter and coheirefs of

John Pennyngton, of Chigwell, esq.

In November, 1730, she married the hon. Edw. Byng,

Fifth and youngest son of

The Right Hon. George Lord Viscount Torrington,

And died March 31, 1744,

In the 37th year of her age.

Her very person bespoke her disposition,
 Being kind, affable, and mild by nature,
 Which made her purity of mind appear in all her ways of life,
 The virtues she possessed were many,
 Unallayed with even the least tincture of vice;
 And when alive, nothing more could be wished for in woman,
 The sincere and tender affection she bore her husband
 was most exemplary and constant to her last moment.
 Gratitude required this testimony;
 Love, Friendship, and Regard
 Inscribe the rest.

In the middle of the chancel, upon the ground,
 is a black marble stone, having a plate of brass in-
 laid; upon which is inscribed as follows;

Neere this place lyeth the body of Thomas Younge, in Nweland
 and Roxwell, gent. who married Katheren, one of the daughters
 of John Wiseman, of Canfield, in the countye of Essex. 1593.

THE arms of the family, in a small plate of
 brass, are above the inscription.

B R O O M F I E L D

IS a parish fruitful in it's soil; convenient, healthy, and pleasant in it's situation: the road to Braintree, Sudbury and Bury; to Dunmow, Thaxted, Saffron Waldon and Cambridge, runs through it; from London it is distant between thirty-one and thirty-two miles; from Chelmsford about two; which last parish it adjoins. It originally took it's name from the great quantity of broom which grew in all the various soils of it; and this appears the more reasonable, as in most parts of it this plant seems to be so deeply rooted as to make it impossible, even at this time, entirely to destroy it's growth.

IN this parish are four reputed manors; viz. Broomfield-hall; Patching-hall; Wood-hall; Bellstead-hall.

BROOMFIELD-HALL has a good mansion near the church; at the time of the general survey was possessed by Geoffry de Mandeville, who came into England with William the Conqueror, and was rewarded by him with one hundred and eighteen lordships; forty of which were in Essex; and this one of them: from his family it went to the Bohuns, earls of Essex; from their descendants it passed by marriage into the family of Spice, and they were succeeded in it by the

the noble family of Rich, where passing thro' numerous possessors we find it fell, with many others, to Nicholas earl of Scarfdale; and he sold it to Herman Olmius; in whose family it now continues, being at present possessed by the right hon. lord Waltham.

PATCHING-HALL and WOOD-HALL being in old records mentioned only as one manor, it would much confuse the reader to treat of them separately, and as two distinct manors: Patching-hall is a brick building, situate on the left hand side of the road leading from Chelmsford to Broomfield-church; and is little more than a mile distant from Chelmsford town, and Wood-hall is situate on the north-west side of the church, at a considerable distance from Patching-hall, near the road leading from Chelmsford to Chignal Smeley. — The account of the possessors of these estates are very dark and founded more upon supposition than fact by all historians, till we find them in the family of the Bouchier's, in the reign of king Henry the Fourth; from the Bouchier's, who possessed them for many years, they passed into that of Rich; and from thence into the family of Olmius, where they continue, being the property of the right honourable lord Waltham.

BELSTEAD-HALL stands in the east and south-east part of this parish, not far from New-hall park. — There is very little account of this manor to be found, that carries the appearance of authenticity, till the year 1558, at which time John Wiseman, of Felstead,

Belstead, esq. died possessed of it; in whose successors it continued till it was purchased by George Williers, duke of Buckingham; at whose death it went to his son George. Afterwards general Monk, duke of Albemarle, and his posterity, enjoyed it for several years; and since then it hath continued in the owners of New-hall estate, the chief part of which, with Belstead-hall, is now in Richard Hoare, esq. of Boreham.

THERE are in this parish, besides those already related, several other estates of consequence which I shall give a short account of, in the following order.

In the south-west part of this parish, about half a mile from the church, is an exceeding good estate, called Priors; which is so named from its having originally belonged to Blackmore priory. Upon the general suppression it was granted to Richard Roger and Robert Taverner; and from them was alienated to William Eyre; after going thro' the hands of about two more of the same family, it was possessed by Thomas Wallenger, who passed it to Edward Elliot, and he to Manwood; by one of which family it was left to Mr. Thomas Pocklington, gent. and at his decease he left it to his widow, who now enjoys it.

On the right hand side of the road from Chelmsford to Waltham, a little above Broomfield-green, is an estate called Wellhouse; it was formerly in Mr. Bullen; then in Mr. Burr; whose widow marrying Mr. Marsh, at his decease he left it to his daughter,

daughter, and she, by will, gave it to John Olmius, esq. in whose family it continues.

A LITTLE below the same green, and on the same side of the road is an estate called Butlers. After being in the possession of divers families, we find it in Daniel Scratton, esq. who dying without issue, it came to his nephew Daniel Scratton, esq. who left it to his eldest son Daniel Scratton, esq. now of Bilericay; and he sold it to the Rev. Mr. Jonathan White, vicar of Weathersfield; who has rebuilt the house; laid out the gardens in a genteel taste, and made it an agreeable residence for himself.

UPON the same side of the road, about a mile and a half from Chelmsford, is an estate called Gutter's; it formerly belonged to the Lake family, who resided at Witham; and from them, by purchase, come to Mr. John Judd, Merchant, of Chelmsford, in whom it continues.

SCRAVELS is another estate in this parish, near Priors, formerly possessed by the Boosey family; now by Mr. Daniel Harrington, of Waltham.

Charitable Donations to this Parish.

A LARGE parcel of land, adjoining to the farm called Priors (to which there is a way through the yard of that farm,) and now leased at a small rent. The original intent of this donation is not known; but is greatly wished by some of the parishioners, that the produce might be applied towards the repairs and ornaments of the church.

TWO TENEMENTS standing on the south side of the green, almost opposite to the church, were given about the year 1700 by Mr. Thomas Woolard, to the poor of the parish for ever; which two tenements now are converted into a workhouse.

AN alms-house for two dwellers, without endowment, stands by the west side of the road, beyond the late Sir Richard Everard's house.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE CHURCH stands on a green near the road side, on the left, going to Waltham: it is of one pace with the chancel, but has a little vestry at the north-west corner, all tiled. At the west end is a large round tower of brick and stone, plaistered over, containing three bells: at the top of which is a wooden spire, shingled. The church is very spacious.

THIS church, with the lands, tythes, and appertinances, was given by Walter de Mandeville to the church of Holy Trinity in London, and the canons there. In 1293 Richard de Gravesend, bishop of London, appropriated it to that house, and ordained a vicarage here, reserving to himself and successors the nomination of the vicars, which the prior and convent were to present; and thus it continued till the general suppression; when the whole right and patronage of this vicarage was presented to the bishop of London, and it hath continued in his successors to that see, ever since.

THE improper tythes continued in the priory of Holy Trinity till their suppression; when king Henry the Eighth granted them, with the parsonage, to William Harris; from whom they came to Richard lord Rich, who made them part of the endowment of his free-school and alms-house at Felstead; to which there is still paid annually, out of this parsonage, sixty-eight pounds six shillings and eleven pence, and to the alms-house eighteen bushels of wheat, and twenty-nine of malt.

THE parsonage-house, glebe and great tythes, are held by lease of the heirs of the said lord Rich, whose present representative is the right hon. the earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham. — Some of the lessees have been John Atwood, of Gray's-inn, esq. Edward Rigby, esq. Dr. Stewart, and John Hill, and Richard Price, esquires. It was much improved by the two last, who made such alterations as to render it a commodious gentleman's seat: some part of the house is supposed to have been built by the Devereaux family, as their arms are cut in stone over one of the chimnies. — The present lessee is the honorable Edward Finch Hatton, esq. brother to the earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, and patron of Felstead school. — Some improvements have been made in the house and gardens by the present worthy possessor.

THE vicarage, which is an exceeding neat house, on the right side of the road leading from Broomfield to Waltham, and almost over against the church, was rebuilt :

rebuilt by the Rev. John Gibson, L. L. B. in the year 1750.

THE present vicar applied to the Governors of queen Ann's bounty, and offered several purchases he had made, in order to receive from the corporation two hundred pounds as an addition to this small living; which they accepted in 1763.

NEAR the communion rails upon the ground is a black marble stone, in which had been inlaid in brass the effigies of two persons; but they are taken away: however, a brass plate over the place where the effigies were is remaining, and has this inscription:

Religio tibi sacra fuit, mores bene culti, *foelix*
discensus, gloria finis erit:

Godly was his profession,
Religious was his conversation,
Blessed was his dissolution.
Glorious shall be his resurrection.

ON another plate of brass beneath where the effigies were placed, is written,

Here lyeth, expecting a joyfull resurrection, the bodie of Mr. Thomas Huntlye, late citizen and merchant adventurer of London, who married Rachall, the daughter of Mr John Pake, of this towne, gentleman; who had y^e by her two children William and Ann, who departed this life the 24th day of Aprill, 1613.

AGAINST the north wall of the church is a neat marble monument; bearing this inscription:

THE HISTORY OF

In te Domine Speramus.

Infra hanc sacrarii partem pace
quiescit adventum supremi Judicis expectans

THOMAS MANWOOD, Generosus,

Et mansi de Priors in hac parochia

Possess. & incola ;

Filius Joannis Manwood, Armigeri,

Et libri de legibus forestarum docti congestoris ;

Consanguineus Rogeri Manwood,

Militis, & Capitalis Baronis Scaccarii

Regnante Elizabetha.

Qui oppetiit xx die Septembris, Anno Domini MDCL.

Ætatis 63.

Duxit uxorem, Annan, filiam Thomæ Love,

Militis & in classe regis Jacobi Vice Admiralli ;

ex quæ sobolem procreavit tres filios & sex filias.

Juxta hunc inhumatus jacet Joannes Manwood, Generosus,

Et supradicti Thomæ filius,

qui vitam hanc deposuit xi Aprilis,

Anno Domini MDCCV. Ætatis LXIII.

Hic nupsit Dianam, filiam Richardi Gold,

Mercatoris Londinensis ;

de qua reliquit superstites filium unicum Thomam,

& duas filias, Dianam & Katharinam.

Quorum

Katharina quæ nupta Reverendo Olivero Pocklington, A. M.

Ecclesiæ de Chelmsford Rectori.

Fuit dum vixit

Fida uxor, pia mater,

Et justa noverca.

Obiit xxviii Martii, anno Domini MDCCXVI.

Relictis liberis Katherina, Thom. Dian. & Anna.

Et prope patrem ultima sepulta est.

Thomas,

solus nomine, & rei hæres,

adhuc vivis

Hoc Monumentum in memoriam majorum propriis sumptibus posuit

Januarii xxvi. Anno Domini, 1628.

In English ;

In the, oh Lord, we put our trust.
Beneath this part of the Church rests in peace,
waiting for the coming of Christ,

THOMAS MANWOOD, gentleman,
Proprietor and inhabitant of the mansion called Priors,
in this parish;

Son of John Manwood, esq. compiler of
A learned treatise upon the forest laws ;
And nearly allied to Roger Manwood
Knight and chief baron of the exchequer
In the reign of Elizabeth.

He died the 20th of Sept. in the year of Lord, 1650,
aged 63.

He married Ann, daughter of Thomas Love,
A vice admiral in king James's navy ;
And left issue three sons and six daughters.
Near him is interr'd John Manwood, gent.

Son of the above-named Thomas,
Who departed this life April 11,
In the year of our Lord 1705, and of his age 63.
He married Diana, Daughter of Richard Gold,
Merchant of London ;

By whom he left issue one son Thomas,
And two daughters Diana and Katharine.

Of which

Katharine married the reverend Oliver Pocklington, A. M.
Rector of Chelmsford.

She was

A virtuous wife, a tender parent,
and a kind step-mother.

And died 28th March, in the year 1716.
She left issue Katharine, Thomas, Diana, and Ann.
The last of these lies buried near her father.

Thomas,

The only one now remaining of the name,

And

And heir to the estate,
Hath, at his own expence,
Erected this monument
To the memory of his Ancestors,
January the 26th. 1728.

BROOMFIELD VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Edmund Tyrwhitt, M. A.

Bishop of London

CLEAR YEARLY VALUE.

TENTHS.

£ 45 0 0

£ 0 15 4

GREAT CHICKNALL

IS a parish situate about four miles south of Chelmsford, and adjoins north-west to Broomfield. It is likewise called Chicknall St. Mary and St. James, from the Saints to which the two churches that formerly stood here were dedicated; and is sometimes called Great Chicknall, to distinguish it from a small parish adjoining, named Little Chicknall or Chicknall Smeley.

WITHIN this parish are reckoned two manors; namely, the manor of Chiggenhall St. Mary and St. James, otherwise Chignall magna, and Zoyn; and the manor of Hawes, alias Hittats.

THE first mentioned of these manors seems formerly to have been divided into two, distinguished by the names

names Chiggenhall-Tany, from a family who first possessed it; and Chiggenhall-Zoyn; and from the best accounts we can trace of each, at the time they were divided, it is evident there were likewise two churches. — This manor has a good large mansion, situate about half a mile north-west of the church. At different times we find it to have been possessed by the following families; viz. Tany, Dronsford, Nevil, William de Bohun, earl of Northampton; Thomas of Woodstock, William Bourchier, earl of Eu; from whose successors it passed to the Stafford family; and upon the death of Edward Stafford, earl of Buckingham, who (through the treachery of his steward Charles Knevet,) was beheaded in May 1521, it fell to the crown; the year after which king Henry the Eighth granted it Christopher Rochester, and Henry his son for life; and after them to Ambrose Barker, knt. whose son and heir alienated it to Sir William Petre, knt. in whose family it continued some time, and is now the property of Thomas Berney Bramstone, esq. of Skreens, in this county.

HAWES or HITTAT's is situate about a mile from the church, on the left hand side the road going from Chelmsford. It is now the property of Mr. Hanbury, of Coggeshall.

Charitable Donations to the Poor.

FIVE POUNDS a year were given to the poor by Thomas Woolard, in the year 1700.

CH-

CHURCH, MONUMENTS & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church, built of brick and stone, is small, but clean and neat. At the west end is a tower of wood, in which is one bell.

THE parsonage house lies a small distance from the church; pleasantly situated, and is a very good house.

BELONGING to the glebe is a small field, called St. Mary's croft, which formerly was the church-yard to the church dedicated to St. Mary, and which belonged to the manor of Chignall-Tany.

THE advowson of this rectory was appendant to the manor, till severed from it by Joseph Petre, esq. who sold, it with the advowson of the adjoining parish of Mashbury to ——— Stock, gent. of Great Hallingbury. His son Thomas Stock, A. M. enjoyed it several years, and at his death left it to Mrs. Carter, his neice, and she brought it in marriage to her husband John Shrigley, M. A. Of whom it was purchased by John Strutt, of Terling, esq. the present patron.

IN the church is not any inscription worth recording except the following one; which is on a black marble stone within the communion rails:

Here lies the Rev.

THOMAS STOCK,

Rector of Chicknall St. James, and of Mashbury,

Son of Thomas Stock, of

Much-Hallingbury, in the county of Essex;

And Joanna, his wife.

He was

The kind husband,

CHELMSFORD HUNDRED.

271

The indulgent master, the generous friend;

The father of the poor.

In the work of the ministry faithful.

In the labour of the Lord diligent.

His charity spoke him a christian.

His zeal for God's honor a priest.

In death lamented, and in life beloved.

He died Feb. 7, 1744, aged 51.

GREAT CHIGNAL RECTORY

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Foote Gower, M. D. John Strutt, of Terling, esq.
June, 1761.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS,

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 10 14 7

£ 1 1 5.

CHICKNALL SMELEY

STANDS north of Great Chicknall, and is distinguished by several other names; among which are Chicknall Parva, or Little Chicknall; as also Brick Chicknall, because the church is built of brick. — The soil is chiefly clay; and rather colder than Great Chicknall.

WITHIN this parish are two manors; viz.

DYVES-HALL; which has a good mansion belonging thereto about a quarter of a mile south-east of the church; partly surrounded by a moat — The greatest

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Ss

part was built by the Luckyn family; but some of it has been taken down: however there is at present sufficient left to render it a commodious and convenient habitation. — The different possessors, as near as they can be traced from ancient records, are as follows: The family of Dyves, (from which it took its name) who were succeeded by the Botetourts; it afterwards reverted again to the Dyve family; from whom it passed into those of Sir John de Philibert, *knt.* John de Hleggh, Blount, John Glascock, Luckyn, Brand, Marple, and Child; in the last of which families it continues.

THE other manor is called Bereman's, from an ancient tenant of that name. It has been in the families of Porter, Chaplin, Haselfoote, Singleton, and Brand; and continues in the last mentioned one, being at present possessed by Thomas Brand, *esq.* of the Hyde.

In this parish there are not any gifts to the poor.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church is small, of one pace with the chancel; at the west end of which is a strong brick tower, embattled, containing one bell. — The church is extremely damp. Against the north wall is a neat marble monument; the inscription on which, in several places, is almost obliterated, although the monument in every other respect appears in very good condition; I shall therefore, to gratify the curiosity of succeeding generations, record it in this useful work.

M. S.

WESTON STYLEMAN,

A Styleman & Manwood oriundi,

Non eget laude, qui nactus est eam, quam speravit,

immortalitatem ;

si quis tamen illum laudare velit ;

Pium, benevolentum, probum, imitetur,

Ob. 19 Oct. 1732, ætatis 76 ; cum in Beadles-hall,

hac in paroch. an. 50 habitaret.

Neenon

Elizabethæ, torquentumliq. consortis,

Rob. Wood, de Barnston, in hac com. filia :

Quæ, plurimâ virtute prædita,

ob. 23 Aug. 1700, æt. 56.

Robert. Ann. Doroth. Cather. & Elizabet.

(Liberis 4, brevis ævi, prius ereptis)

Prolem reliquerunt superstitem,

Anna ob. 3 Nov. 1738, ætat. 47.

H. M.

Ex testam. poni curavit Robertus,

Eccles. de Stortford, in com. Hertford, Vic.

Virtutis haud degener parentum, an. 30.

Laboriosæ fido munia pastoris obivit

Morti, sibi minùs quam aliis ingratus ;

Succubuit 7 Dec. 1749, ætat. 59.

Et, cognatorum cinere commistus,

Parietem juxta oppositum requiescit.

Thus Englished :

Sacred to the memory of

WESTON STYLEMAN,

Sprung from Styleman and Manwood.

The man who has obtained

immortality,

The prize he was in pursuit of,

Is above praise.

S s 2

His

THE HISTORY OF

Whoever would commend him,
 Let it be done by imitating
 His virtue, benevolence, and integrity.
 He died the 17th of October, 1738, in the 76th year of his age,
 Having inhabited Beadles-hall, in this parish,
 For Fifty years.

Also

Elisabeth, partner of his bed and grave,
 Daughter of Robert Wood, of Barnstone, in this county.
 A woman of unblemished virtue,
 Died Aug. 23, 1700, aged 56.
 Robert, Ann, Dorothy, Catharine, and Elisabeth survived them,
 (Four were snatched away in their infancy)
 Ann died the 23d of November, 1738, aged 47.
 Robert,

By his will ordered this monument to be erected.
 He was vicar of Stortford in Hertfordshire,
 And degenerated not from the virtues of his ancestors,
 But for thirty years faithfully and punctually
 discharged the duties of his office,
 Assisting others to the neglect of himself.
 He died Dec. 7, 1749, aged 59,
 And being mixed with the ashes of his family,
 He rests near the opposite wall.

UPON the ground in the body of the church is
 this inscription, upon a black marble stone :

Here lyeth the body of Richard Luckyns,
 Of Dives-hall in the parish of Chicknall Smeley,
 In the county of Essex, esq.
 And late sheriff of that county,
 Who married the daughter of William Cholmely,
 Of Highgate, in the county of Middlesex, esq.
 And departed this life
 The 10th day of March, 1657, ætatis suæ 76.

CHICK-

CHICKNALL SMELEY RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRONS.

Waltar Sericole, M. A. Rev. Mr. Cook, of Seymer, in Suffolk; and —
Child, a minor, proprietor
of Dyves-hall.

GREAT WALTHAM

BY many is reckoned to be the largest parish in the whole county of Essex; but upon making due allowance for the great quantity of waste ground in Writtle, it will appear that parish exceeds Great Waltham by much in its extent: however it pays more than Writtle to the land-tax, and is computed to be about seven miles in length, and borders upon eleven parishes — It is well watered, having several fine springs which rise in the parish, running thro' a great part of it, and emptying themselves into the Chelmer, which river runs near five miles thro' this parish. It has two water corn mills; and abounds in maltings. It has likewise three bridges. The soil in general is a heavy clay; but it produces as fine wheat as any part of the whole county. — The name is taken from the Saxon words *Weald-ham*; a village in a wood; this parish, (as indeed was once the whole county,) being formerly covered

covered with woods. By many it is called Much-Waltham, a word of the same import as *Great*; to distinguish it from a parish adjoining, named Little Waltham.

THIS parish is divided into eight hamlets; viz. Church-end, South-end, Rophey-green, Chatham-end, How-street, Little-green, Fourth-end, and North-end; and contains the following manors, or reputed manors; namely, Waltham-bury, Chatham, Warners, Hide-hall, South-house, Langleys; and the manor of the Rectory.

WALTHAM-BURY is a manor, the lands and demesnes of which are full eight hundred acres; and the quit-rents upwards of sixty-two pounds; but the fines are certain. The mansion is about a mile west north-west of the church: it was one of the forty lordships in this county given to Geoffry de Mandeville; from whose family it went to Geoffry Fitz-Piers, who was justice of England and earl of Essex; and from his successors went by marriage to Henry de Bohun, earl of Hereford* (so frequently mentioned as possessor of different estates in this part of the county:) after being for several generations in that family, we find it in Thomas of Woodstock, who was treacherously decoyed from his noble seat at Pleshey, and barbarously murdered by order of king Richard the Second. However it continued in his family for some time after, till it went to king

* He had a fine seat at Pleshey.

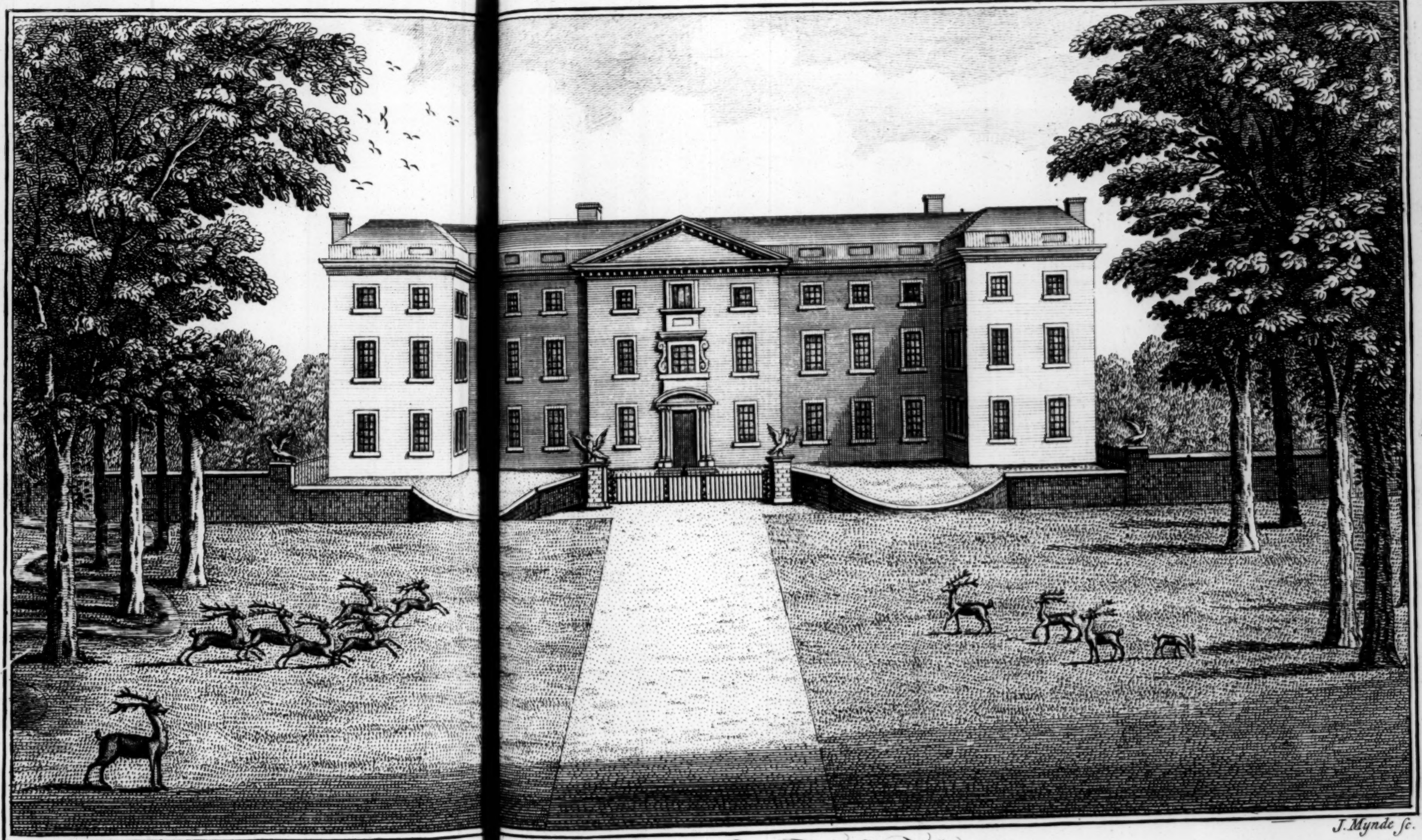
Henry the Fifth; who was succeed therein by king Henry the Sixth, Edward the Fourth and Fifth, and Richard the Third; the last of whom granted it to Henry Stafford duke of Buckingham, who had assisted in placing him upon the throne: but in attempting afterwards to dethrone that monarch, (as I before observed) was betrayed, and beheaded at Salisbury in 1483, without trial or arraignment. — This manor consequently falling to the crown, king Henry the Seventh granted it to queen Elizabeth, widow of king Edward the Fourth, for her life; and in June 1509, king Henry the Eighth gave it in dower to his first queen Catharine of Arragon: upon whose death Sir Richard Rich got a grant of it: and his posterity enjoyed it for several years till 1678, when it was left to Robert Montague earl of Manchester: of whom it was purchased by Herman Olmius, a rich Dutch merchant: in whose posterity it remains, being at present enjoyed by the right hon. lord Waltham.

THE manor of Chatham-hall has a good mansion house about a mile north-east from the church, and about half a mile on the right hand of the road leading from Braintree to Chelmsford: it has been possessed by the families of Mandeville, Legat, Spice, Rich, and passed in the same manner as Waltham-bury did to the present right hon. lord Waltham.

WARNERS, (the mansion house of which is not quite two miles from the church, beyond How-street, on the left hand side the road from Waltham to Dunmow,)

now,) took its name from an owner in 1360; whose family enjoyed it for several generations; from whom it was purchased by Richard lord Rich; who a little before (in 1536) had obtained a grant of the priory of Little Lees, with the lands and demesns belonging thereto; between which there was no other partition from Warners than the road, and of these demesns he formed a park in circumference about four miles; which park ran into Lees and Felstead parishes as well as into this. It was called Little Lee Park, along the south-side of which is a pleasant green called Little Lee-green. — Ancient authors as well as modern, have confounded and corrupted the name into Littley-green. — This manor, with Lees priory, were for a considerable time enjoyed by the posterity of lord Rich, till upon the partition of the noble inheritance of that peer, they were, with other estates, allotted to Charles Montague, earl of Manchester; whose son and successor sold them to the guardians of Edmund Sheffield, duke of Buckingham, a minor, who was succeeded in these estates by Charles Herbert Sheffield, esq. a natural son of John duke of Buckingham; who was created a baronet, and they are now in Guy's Hospital, London.

THE manor of Hide-hall is situate north east from the church about a mile; and from the Braintree road about half a mile; it has an exceeding good large mansion. We find (according to the old writings and the best historians,) this manor to have been enjoyed by the following families; viz. Hyde, (from which



TO JOHN JOLLIFF TUFNELL Esq.
This PLATE of his Seat at Langley in Great Wallham is most humbly & thankfully Inscribed.

which it took its name) Hawkins, Sorrel, and Hay; from which last family it was given to Dr. Tyson a physician in London, and is still enjoyed by his posterity.

THE manor of South-house has a good mansion, situate about a quarter of a mile south-west from the church. It is likewise called Bybbesworth-fee, from an ancient family who possessed it in the reign of king Henry the Third; and since them has been in the families of Barley, Westland; and is now in West Andrew Blackaller, of Abingdon, in Berkshire.

THE manor of Langleys is distinguished in ancient writings by the name of Marshalls, or Mariskalle. The mansion house (lying about a quarter of a mile from the church,) is an exceeding good one, the late possessor Samuel Tuffnel, esq. having pulled down the greatest part of the old house and built a new one in it's place; he likewise made a good park around it, laid out pleasant gardens, and at a vast expence, rendered it an elegant commodious seat. — The house is situate on a pleasant eminence; the foot and sides of which are washed by the river Chelmer on the north, and a brook on the south. The name of Marshall was given to it from a family that flourished there from the reign of king John to Edward the Third; at which æra it came to the family of the Langleys, and was called after them; which name it retains to this day. — From the Langleys a moiety of it went to the family of

Slixtons of Horndon, and the other to the Cornish family of this parish. In 1529 the moiety of the former was passed to the Everard family; who likewise had that of the latter given them, thro' marriage. This family which made a considerable figure in the county for many years, enjoyed this estate till it was purchased of Sir Richard Everard by Samuel Tuffnel, esq. who left it at his decease to his eldest son, John Jolliffe Tuffnel, esq. the present owner.

THE manor of the RECTORY before the suppression of monasteries belonged to Walden-abbey; after which Sir Richard Rich enjoyed it; from whom it passed to Sir Thomas Pope, knt, founder of Trinity College in Oxford; and he settled it upon the president and fellows of that foundation; under whom the Sorrel family held it by lease many years; of them John Rotheram, esq. purchased it; whose son succeeded him therein; and he, at his decease, bequeathed it to his eldest daughter Mary; who left it, after the death of her sister Ann, to her two heiresses; Ann, wife of the late Sir William Younge, bart. and Mary, married to George Venables Vernon: The house, &c. situate about a mile north-east of the church, (which are watered by the Chelmer,) received considerable additions and improvements by John Rotheram, esq. soon after he made the purchase of the lease.

BESIDES the manors already mentioned, there are several estates of value in this parish; particularly,
Balis,

BALLS, about a mile south from the church, late Goodeve's; now in John Jolliffe Tuffnell, esq.

WISEMANS, near the church; once the property of Richard lord Rich; now of the owner of Balls.

FITZ-JOHN'S, south-west of the church, and distant from it about a mile. This estate is likewise in the same owner as the two former.

NOT far from Fitz-John's is another good estate called Israels. It lately was possessed by John Blatch, of Colchester, merchant; and now is the property of his son in law John Blatch Whaley, of the same place, merchant.

HILL-HOUSE, a large farm belonging to Mr. Tyson.

WALLOPS belonging to the Miss Tuffnells, is a good house in this parish, situate on the right side of the road from the turnpike to the church.

Charitable Donations.

A TENEMENT and gardens adjoining, called Welmers, lying in this parish, were given in 1542 by John and William Welmers, inhabitants there, towards repairing the church, maintaining the bridges, and all other charitable uses from time to time as the greatest part of the parish shall approve of. The tenement belonging to this gift is now down.

THIS parish receives yearly, four barrells and a half of herrings, being a part of the gift of Richard lord Rich.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church is a very good strong bricked building, covered with lead, and consists of a body and south ayse; the chancel is of one pace and extremely neat; to the north side of which adjoins a small vestry. At the west end is an octagon tower, containing six very good bells, a set of chimes, and a clock. The church is remarkably neat, and although there are not twelve pews in it, the regularity and uniformity in which the benches are placed, is very pleasing. In the vestry is a strong parish chest seven foot long, three high, and three over, all of one piece of wood; which is esteemed a great curiosity.

THE vicarage-house, which was rebuilt by the late incumbent, is a very good house, and stands west of the church.

THIS church, both rectory and vicarage, belong to Trinity College (as I observed before). Mr. Newcourt takes notice that the vicar is endowed with the tythes of hay, and others things, besides the small tythes; notwithstanding which, so extensive and burthenfome a cure was only a poor vicarage of about eighty pounds a year, payable by one hundred and twenty-six persons: but the patrons of it in 1751 made a handsome addition of fifty pounds a year for ever, payable half-yearly from the lessee of the rectory to the vicar; which addition has since been augmented to eighty pounds yearly.

IN north-end, by the side of the road leading from
this

this church to Dunmow, stands a small timber building, having a wooden-turret; it is called Black-Chapel; and is intended as a chapel of ease to this distant part of the parish. — A lady of the Wileman family endowed it with a farm not far from it; which now lets at twenty-six pounds yearly; but part of the money goes to the poor. The trustees to this endowment are some of the neighbouring farmers, who allowed the preacher sixteen pounds a year. The vicar, it is said, is exempted from preaching at the chapel of ease, lest it might induce him to neglect the mother church.

OVER one of the gates of the church-yard is an old house, called the Guild-hall, or the church-house: it is supposed to have received it's name from the courts being formerly held there: however, the parish now are possessed of it, and have converted it into a work-house.

WITHIN the church against the wall on the north-side, is a neat grey marble monument, bearing the following melancholly recital of the several misfortunes which hastened the death of the worthy gentleman, whose memory it perpetuates.

Near this place lyeth the body of

PETER CURVENGEN, Merchant,

He was sent in his youth to the East-Indies, where attaining a thorough knowledge of the India-trade in all its branches, he acquired a plentiful fortune; and with all, what is more valuable, the universal character of a man of great honour and honesty; of inviolable faith and integrity; which virtue he adorned with uncommon affability and politeness.

Preparing,

Preparing, after a twenty-five year's absence, to return to his native country, he unfortunately fell into the hands of Cannajee Agria, admiral to the Sou Rajah, then at war with the English at Bombay, and remained in a miserable captivity five years: during which time he remained with an unparallelled patience, generosity, and greatness of mind, not only comforting, assisting, and supporting his fellow-sufferers, but even refusing his own deliverance without that of his companions in misery. At last, having freed himself and the rest by his own industry and management, he embarked for England, in hopes of sitting down in quiet, and enjoying the fruits of his labours: But see the uncertainty of all things below! Just before his landing a violent fit of the cramp seizing his thigh, and bursting the veins, though the effects were hardly discernable, yet was he forced, soon after his arrival at London, to have his thigh first laid open, and then cut off almost close to his body. Scarce ever was the like operation performed! Never any undergone with more resolution and firmness, without so much as a groan, or the least motion to express his anguish. He out-lived this operation twelve days, when the wound bleeding afresh, he resigned his last breath with a surprising sedateness and unconcern at leaving this world, being fully persuaded he was going to exchange his perishable for everlasting riches.

He died June 26, 1729, in the 47th year of his age. He was son of William Curvengen, a gentleman of good family in Cornwall; and married Frances, daughter of John Rotherham, of this parish, esq. whom he left his sole executrix, having no issue; and who erected this monument over his grave, as a token of her affection and gratitude.

OVER the inscription is the family arms.

In the window on the north side the church is a very costly monument, erected to the memory of Sir Anthony Everard, knt. and Ann his lady. It is within an arch of various kinds of marble, about fourteen feet high, and six and a half wide: Upon a tomb

omb, about four feet from the ground, is seen the full length representation of lady Ann, in a cumbent posture, her head reclining upon her right hand; having a scroll hanging upon her arm, with the words

Come Lord Jesus

Come Lord Jesus

written thereupon. Upon a tomb behind that of his lady, about two feet higher, is the resemblance of Sir Anthony Everard, at full length, and in the same attitude. Behind him are the figures of a skull and an hour-glass; above which is the following inscription, enclosed by a glory:

M. S.

Anna Dna Everard, filia

Thomæ Barnardiston, Eq. Au.

Ab antiqua familia Barnardistonon

de Kediton, in comitat Suff.

(olim antiquissimi cognominis de

Newmarche, sive de Novo Mercat)

Oriundi, & Dnæ Elifabethæ Hanchet,

uxoris suæ, sexta post

partem Hebdomeda, gravi febre

correpta, vere piam expiravit

Illam 19 die Decemb. An. Sal. Nre 1609,

unica (jam) prole Anna filia supersitit.

Is English;

Sacred to the memory

Of Lady Ann Everard, daughter

of Thomas Barnardiston, knt.

Descended from the ancient family of the Barnardistons

of Kedington in the county of Suffolk,

(who formerly bore the most ancient surname

of Newmarche, or New Market)

And of the lady Elifabeth Hanchet, his wife:

Six weeks after her lying-in

She was snatched away by a severe fever,

And died a truly good foster-mother

the 19th of December, in the year of our salvation 1609.

She left behind her only one daughter Anne.

Upon the left-hand side this monument, in a final marble table, which is gone greatly into decay, is written:

Here resteth in assured hope to rise in Christ, the body of Sir Anthony Everard, knt. whoe departed this life in the yeere our Lord 1614, 3 yeeres after that he had erected this monument of his deerely beloved wyfe. He left behinde him one onely daughter, and heire, since married unto Sir William Maynard, of this county, knt. and bart.

And on the right-hand side, on a table simlar to the last mentioned one, is inscribed;

Here lyes ther carkases, subject to corruption untill ther blessed sowles shall once retorne & wh ~~THEM~~ rise to glorye yf (answering ther uertues) a tombe had bene prepared the had been enshrined in gold or stone more preious.

At the feet of lady Ann is seen the figure of a little girl, in a cumbent posture, dressed, having in her hand a coral. Upon the ground, close to and in front of the tomb upon which the effigy of lady Ann is placed, is the resemblance of a little boy, naked, in a cumbent posture likewise: over his head is written *anonymous*. In a line with which little figure are the images of two boys, naked, lying embracing each other; over their heads is wrote, *Anonymous* and *Richard*.—Within the iron

from palisadoes that inclose this curious structure, is the figure of a girl about twelve years of age, in posture of devotion.

OPPOSITE to the last-described monument, against the wall of the south ayfle, is a neat grey marble stone, bearing an inscription I think worthy perusal, and which is as follows :

This monument

Covers not the ashes, but perpetuates the memory
of Hugh Everard, second son

to Sir Hugh Everard, of Langley's, bart.

A son, tho' not born to the estate and honor of the family,

Yet early inherited the virtue and bravery of it,

The glories of whose infancy

Raised our just hopes to expect wonders from his manhood ;

For not being 13 years of age, he left Felstead school,

September 24, 1700, and on the 29th he went

Reformade

Under captain Whitaker, to convey king William from Holland,

Tho' then a tempest arose, which destroyed many in his sight,

Yet the undaunted youth still had glory in view.

The invitation of that, and the greatness of his soul,

Lessened all the threatenings of danger.

Aug. 15, 1702, after several Voyages and hardships endured by
land and sea,

A descent being made into Spain,

His choice and request put his courage upon action,

Being the third that landed ; and the Spanish horse coming upon
them,

The commander fell by his hand

And the sword of the man before, graz'd the side of the young
stripling.

But now reader

Turn thy triumphant songs into mournful dirges,

For the fatal 27th Nov. 1703, comes big with tempest and ruin,
 (Such as former ages never knew, and future will scarce credit)
 When our brave young man, (having changed his ship in order for
 new atchievements)

And crew were swallowed up by the unsatiable Goodwin.

Thus fell the age's wonder,

After he had established a reputation

That shall never die.

BENEATH is the representation of the ship's being
 cast away on the Goodwin-sands.

GREAT WALTHAM VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

—— Lovelace, A. M.

Trin. Coll. Oxford.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 18 13 4

£ 1 7 4

LITTLE WALTHAM or WAL- THAM PARVA

LIES east of Great Waltham, is about four
 miles south-east of Chelmsford. The road to Brain-
 tree, Sudbury, Bury, Norwich, &c. runs thro'
 it, as likewise does the river Chelmer, over which
 is a handsome bridge built of wood, painted. The
 situation is rural, pleasant, and remarkably health-
 ful. It has two water corn mills; the soil is very
 luxuriant: by a survey taken in July, 1627, it
 was

was found to contain one thousand nine hundred fifty-one acres, and three roods.

WITHIN this parish are reckoned four manors; namely, Little Waltham with Powers; Sheepcote, Boycroft and Blasterd's-fee, and Walkfare's.

THE mansion of the first-named stands in a pretty situation near the church; and the manor at different times has been possessed by the families of the earl of Eustace; Robert de Tatteshall; Thomas de Caili, Adam de Clifton, Richard de Waltham, Makon, Mildmay, Luckyn, Edwards; from the last of which, it was purchased by the present owner Daniel Harrington, gent.—The farm, and 200 acres of land, which formerly were part of this estate, are now the property of Mr. Maurice Pugh, gent.

POWERS, Sheepcotes, and Walkfares were formerly all acknowledged as manors; but are not so now, being sunk into that of Little Waltham. The mansion of the former is agreeably situated in the road to Boreham, about a mile east of the church; and Sheepcote's (which for many years hath gone with Powers) is in the fields, about half a mile north east of the church. — Walkfares cannot be traced.

POWERS and WALKFARE's, in old writings are sometimes joined together; sometimes spoken of apart: they are frequently mentioned as the manor of Waltham Parva and Boreham; under which distinction we find them vested in the families following: Burnel, bishop of Bath and Wells; John de Handlo; and Lovel; but Francis lord Lovel being attainted

in 1485 for aiding the usurper Richard the Third, they fell to the crown, and were granted by Henry the Seventh to John de Vere, earl of Oxford, who had suffered greatly in the cause of the house of Lancaster, and had been very instrumental in setting the crown upon that monarch's head: at his decease, having no issue king Henry the Eighth gave them to Thomas Bullen, father to queen Ann Bullen, (afterwards earl of Wiltshire and Ormond) who was succeeded therein by his son, George Viscount Rochford; who falling a sacrifice to Henry's arbitrary power and ungovernable passion, in 1536, these estates reverted again to the crown. — The year after they were granted to William Mildmay, esq. of whose posterity they were purchased by Richard Bannying, of Dedham in this county, in which family they continued many years, and from thence came by marriage to lord Dacre; who was succeeded therein by his second son Henry Lennard, esq. At his decease in 1703 he left three daughters in minority: the eldest, Margaret, afterwards marrying colonel Lannoue, his son succeeded him in Sheepcotes, and at present enjoys it.

THE farm called Powers has been purchased by Mr. Holmstead, of Braintree who left it at his decease to Mrs. Clark, of Bocking-end, for life; and at her death to his daughter.

ON each side the road leading from Walthambridge to Chelmsford lies the manor of Boycroft, or Blasterd's fee; the mansion belonging to it is only a small cottage; at which the court is called, but
the

the homage adjourn to a barn in a wood named Sparhawks; and to South-house: this manor of Boycroft's for time immemorial has gone with that of South-house; an account of which is given under Great Waltham.

STONEDGE or STONAGE is a good farm in the north-west part of this parish by the east side of the Braintree-road; and belonging to John Hethfield, esq. in Surry.

LONGS is a farm, part in this parish, and part in that of Great Lees, belonging to John Judd, merchant, of Chelmsford.

TWAIN-HALL, a tenement in this parish about a mile south of the church, is part of a large estate formerly possessed by the abbot and convent of St. Edmund's Bury; which estate at the general dissolution coming to the crown, king Edward the Sixth, in 1553, gave it to Richard Hamonde, esq. and Roger Prideaux, gent. by the name of Chanels and Colemans: from whom it was purchased by Robert Poole; and he in the fourth and fifth of Philip and Mary settled it on Richard Sorrel, and other inhabitants of this parish, in trust, for the support and repairs of the parish church of Little Waltham, and for other pious uses. The estate is let for forty-three pounds a year.

Benefactions to this Parish.

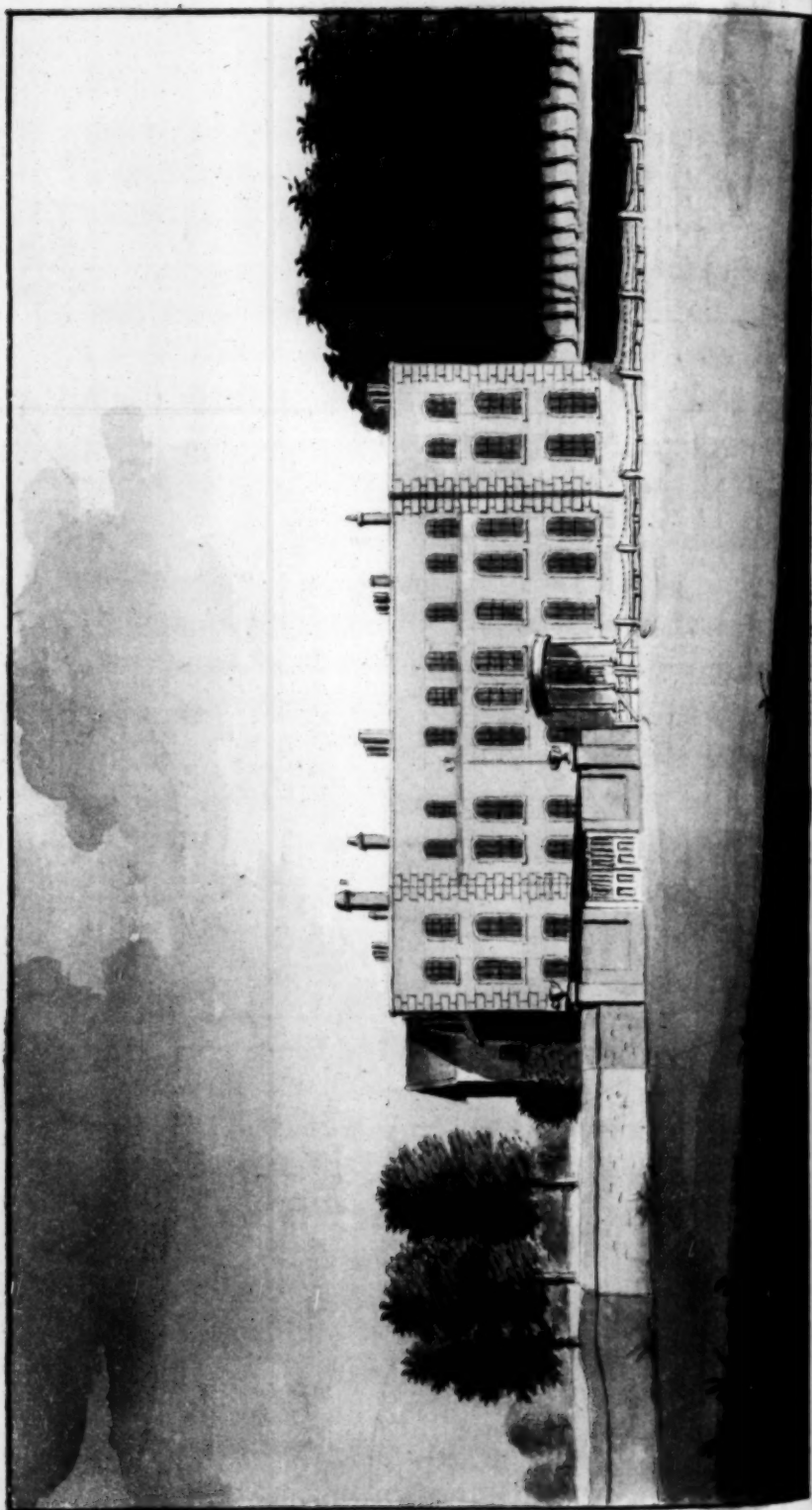
MR. JOHN ALEYN, fourth son of Giles Aleyn, M. A. formerly rector of this parish, gave by his will five hundred

hundred pounds to be laid out in the buying of land in the names of trustees, the revenues of which are to be employed in binding out apprentices the children of the poor of this parish; and if there are not any children fit for binding out, then to be applied towards the reparation of the church and chancel of Little Waltham; and the overplus, if any, to be distributed among the poor people of the parish by the minister and church-wardens thereof for the time being; who are likewise to appoint the children to be put out apprentices: in the said will is a clause forbidding the half of any year's revenue to be given with one child.—The trustees laid out the money in the purchase of an estate lying in Braxted and Takely, in this county; which estate lets for twenty-seven pounds a year.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church, dedicated to St. Martin, pleasantly situated on an eminence a little distance from the village, is a rectory, of old belonging to the prior and convent of Hatfield Peverel, who were patrons thereof till their suppression; soon after which it was granted to John Alleyn, in whose family it has continued ever since till within these few years, when it came to Henry Chalmers, clerk, by the marriage of Arabella Alleyn, only sister of Sir Edmund Alleyn, bart. (which title is now extinct.) The church with the chancel, form but one aisle, tiled;





tilled; at the west end is a regular gothic stone tower embattled, containing five bells and a clock.

FROM the above-named Alleyns charitable donation the church and chancel have many times been repaired and beautified: many ornamental improvements have been lately done by the direction of the present rector, particularly the altar-piece, which is very elegantly painted; and a new font, which consists of a neat marble basin and cover, fixed in a handsome iron frame, painted and gilt.

THE parsonage house is pleasantly situated near the church, the river Chelmer running at a small distance, under a rising hill on the opposite side, bounded by a small wood, forms a romantic agreeable prospect. The house is a large commodious ancient building; which together with the gardens have been greatly modernized and much improved by the present incumbent.

THERE are no monuments in this church; but in the chancel upon a large flat stone, there is the effigies of a man in brass armour, standing upon a talbot, with this inscription in very ancient characters:

Hic jacet Johannes Waltham, Armig. Quondam dominus hujus Villæ Qui obit XXI die Decemb. an. Dom. MCCCCXVIII.

In English;

Here lies the body of John Waltham, knt. sometime lord of this village; who died the 21st day of December, in the year of our Lord 1418.

NEAR it is another of the same kind and character, inscribed thus:

Hic

Hic jacet Richardus Waltham, Qui obit xxiv die mensis Oct.
An. Dom. mccccxxvi.

In English;

Here lieth Richard Waltham, who died the 24th day of the
month October, in the year of our Lord 1426.

ANOTHER of more modern date, thus:

Here lies the body of
Elizabeth dame Luckyn,
Daughter of Sir Edward Pynchon, of Writtle,
In the county of Essex, knt.
By whom she had issue three sonnes and four daughters,
She departed this life the 7th of July,
An. Dom. 1657.

LITTLE WALTHAM RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Henry Chalmers, A. M.

March 4, 1760.

VALUE IN THE KINGS BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 11 10 0

£ 1 3 0

G R E A T L E E S.

ABOUT six or seven miles from Chelmsford,
thirty-six from London, and three from Braintree,
on the road leading from Chelmsford to Braintree, are
two parishes distinguished by the names of Little and
Great Lees; which name comes from the Saxon
word

word *leze, leay, Leah*, all implying a *pasture* or *untilled ground*; a condition it undoubtedly was in at the time the Saxons so named it.

The parish I am now to treat of, being the largest of the two, is called Great Waltham, and contains upwards of two thousand acres of land; of which near one hundred is waste ground. The soil in general is a hard gravel, which has been considerably improved of late years by manuring it with clay. There are some hop grounds in this parish, and the manors in it are eight in number, as follows: Great Lees, Lions-hall, Bishops-Lees, Gobions, Mulsham and Fayrewood, Catley, Brahams or Breams, and Fulbornes.

THE first-named of these manors has a good mansion near the church, and was, at the time of the general survey, held by Eudo Dapifer, the munificent founder of St. John's College, Colchester. From him it passed into the families of Mandeville; Humfrey de Bohun; and went from his family by marriage, to Henry de Bolingbroke, earl of Derby, afterwards king Henry the Fourth, and remained in the crown till the reign of Henry the Eighth, when he settled it in dower on his queen Catherine, and at her decease gave it to Sir Thomas Audley, knt. Lord Chancellor, and he gave it to Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk, upon the duke's marriage with his daughter: he sold it to Thomas Mildmay, of Moulsham, esq. some of whose posterity parted with it to Richard Banning, esq. from whose family it passed by marriage to Lord Dacre: his son, Henry Lennard, esq. succeeded him,

and at his decease gave it his eldest daughter Margaret, who married Col. Lanoue; and his son George Lanoue, esq. is the present proprietor.

BISHOPS-LEES manor has a mansion near the west end of the church. The Banning family enjoyed it for many years, from whom it passed in the same manner as Great Lees did, and is now in the proprietor of that estate.

BISHOPS-LEES manor has a mansion called Bishops-hall, near the parsonage in Church-end. It has been in the families of Mildmay, Shaw, Wyerd, Colleyn, Marion, Mead, Man, Chevely and Cole; and is now possessed by Mrs Clark and Mr. Chevely, of London, and Mr. Rolphe, of Reine, in this county.

GOBIONS, generally called Gubbins, has a good old house, moated round, about half a mile from the road on the right hand leading from Chelmsford to Braintree. It has been in divers persons, and is now in the successor of — Ashurst, esq.

MULSHAM-HALL lies below Young's-End, to which there belongs a common of the same name. It has a mansion a little to the west of the Braintree road. The different possessors of this estate were the families of Philip de Melsham, (from whom it took its name) Skrene, Clerk, Roland, Blount, Aylworth, Gates, North, Take, Richard Rich, Nicholas Earl of Scarf-dale, Olmius; in which last family it continues, being the property of the right hon. lord Waltham. — Faire-wood, containing about ninety acres, is incorporated in this manor.

Chapley,

CHAPLEY, or CHATLEY, is a hamlet in Witham half-hundred, appendant to Cressing-Temple. The manor begins at White-Notley, extending on each side the road towards Chelmsford, and comprehends near a third part of the parish, taking in the manors of Fayrewood, Gobions, Mulsham, Bishops-hall, St. Ann's, and Dere's-bridge, which is the bridge over the rivulet below St. Ann's. In January yearly a court-leet is held at St. Ann's, at which two constables are chosen. The inhabitants pay three shillings and four pence to the steward for a common fine. The lord of this manor has the power of punishing persons who shall commit nuisances within this hamlet.

BRANHAM'S or BREAMS manor has a mansion near Little Lees church, about half a mile from the Braintree road, but in Great Lees parish. This manor, for a considerable number of years having gone with Mulsham-hall, no further notice need be taken of it.

FULBORNE'S is a distinct manor, though very small, and is held of Mulsham-hall, to which it pays a quit-rent of ten shillings. Leading from St. Ann's to the parsonage, on the right hand side the road, stands the mansion. The proprietor of this manor is Mr. William Marriage, of Springfield.

AT the place called St. Ann's, in this parish, on the right side the road from Chelmsford to Braintree, formerly stood an hermitage, which at the general dissolution was given to Thomas Jeanyngs; from him it has passed through a variety of possessors, and

is now converted into a public house, called St. Ann's castle.

Benefaction to the Poor of this Parish.

MRS. FORTUNE WATTS, by her will, dated January, 1698, gave five pounds per annum, being the interest of one hundred pounds, to be distributed in ten equal portions to ten poor people, natives and inhabitants of this parish; half at the discretion of the minister, and half at that of the churchwardens, every new year's day in the afternoon, in the chancel of the church.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE CHURCH, by its form and materials, appears as old as the times before the conquest. It has a round tower at the west end, of flint and stones, covered with an octangular steeple, shingled; in which steeple are five bells. The door at the west end has a semi-circular arch, ornamented with neat indented work. Both church and chancel are of one pace, tiled. The church-yard is very spacious.

THE advowson of this rectory hath all along been appendant to the manor of Great Lees, but lately to that of Lions-hall. In 1728 the three coheiresses of the hon. Edward Lennard sold it to Lincoln College, Oxford where the patronage continues.

In the year 1716 the parsonage, situate about three quarters of a mile north north-west of the church, was new-built by the Rev. John Townson, M. A.
who

who was rector of this parish many years. According to Mr. Morant, the glebe is one hundred acres, thirty of which are wood.

THERE are not any monuments in this church; but the following inscription is cut in a black marble stone on the ground, within the communion rails:

Here lyeth the body of Thomas Gynes,

Who departed this life September 20, 1652,

Being aged 60 yeeres.

His faith and sickness both together strave

That Christ might have his soul; his corps the grave:

Death ends the strife; both conquerors appear,

Christ hath his soule; his body resteth here:

His Mary in teares, whilst Death, hir husband's debter,

Hath laide this stone, but in hir barte a better.

In a black marble stone in the chancel is inlaid a brass plate, upon which is engraved a Latin inscription, recording the death of Rodolphus Shelley, Rector of this parish, October 21, 1414.

GREAT LEES RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

William Smith, M. A.

Lincoln Coll. Oxf.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

TENTHS.

£ 25 7 1

£ 2 10 8

LITTLE

LITTLE LEES

IS a small parish, containing by computation, about five hundred acres; and lies north-west of Great Lees. It has belonging thereto the manors of Little Lees, Warrocks, and the Priory.

THE first mentioned of these manors has a good mansion, called Little Lees-hall, about a quarter of a mile from the church. The manor has been possessed by the families of John de Philiberd, Edmund de Helpeston, Thomas de Markeshall, Stapleford-Tany, and Scot, from which last family it went by marriage into that of Alleyn: Arabella, wife of the Rev. Mr. Chalmers, the present Rector of Waltham, enjoyed it, at whose death it went to her son Edmund Alleyn Chalmers, esq. a minor, the present owner.

THE manor of Warrocks lies on the left hand going from the church to Court-hill: it has a dwelling very pleasantly situated, which formerly was moated round. This manor was originally in the family of Warrock, from whence it took it's name; and from them it passed into the families of Warner, Thomas Mellere, Montgomery, Young, Rich, and Olmius, in which last it continues, being the property of the right honorable lord Waltham.

+ LEES PRIORY and MANOR. This priory was founded in the reign of King Henry the Third, about the year 1229, by Ralph Gernon, (a gentleman of immense

menſe property in this county,) for Auguſtin Fryers and Black Canons. It ſtood a little more than a mile north of the church, in the further parts of the pariſh adjoining to Feiſtead. The buildings were large, ſtately, and venerable; it had an extenſive park, and pleaſant gardens, well watered; and the revenues belonging thereto, as appears from a manuſcript found in the Augmentation-office, were as follows:

Manors of Slamundſey in Great and Little Lees; i. e. 220 acres of Slamundſey manor; the manſion of which ſtood in White Notley. Alſo the manors of Gladſen-hall in Halſtead, and Old-hall in Boreham. The Rectories of Birch Magna and Matching. A Mill in Boreham. Herons in Fiſfield. Camſeys in Feiſtead. Wenham Combuſta and Weſt Bardolſe in Suffolk. And Warneford-hall.

THE advowſon and patronage of it remained in the heirs of the founder till the ſuppreſſion of monaſteries; when it was valued at one hundred fourteen pounds one ſhilling and four pence, according to Dugdale; but Mr. Speed ſays, one hundred forty-one pounds, four ſhillings and eight pence. —King Henry the Eighth then granted this priory, with the manors of Little Lees, Camſey, Berns and Herons in Great and Little Lees, and an annual penſion of five marks iſſuing out of the rectory and church of Great Birch, to Sir Richard Rich, Chancellor of the Court of Augmentation, who made moſt prodigious improvements in the priory, and converted it into a capital ſeat for himſelf and family. The buildings conſiſted of an outer and an inner court: they were of brick; but

the inner one was faced with free-stone and stone mortar. He built an elegant banqueting-house; laid out the gardens in the greatest taste; adding to the park mentioned above, which surrounded the house and contained upwards of four hundred acres, another at the back of it, containing upwards of four hundred acres likewise: he formed a third, called Little Lee park (which is taken notice of under Great Waltham). In short, he rendered it so delightful a situation, that Dr. Anthony Walker, in his funeral sermon on Charles earl of Warrick, who had enjoyed this noble inheritance, says, ‘he bequeathed the seat
 ‘at Lees, to the eldest son of his eldest and most endeared sister, the earl of Manchester’: and afterwards, in the same sermon, addresses the earl thus: ‘Your noble uncle hath left you, after your noble aunt, a secular elysium, a worldly paradise, and heaven upon earth, if there be any such.’

BEFORE I mention the great change this large estate and once-superb mansion have undergone, I think it will be proper to give my readers a short account of its original proprietor, whose posterity flourished here for upwards of a century in the greatest splendor. Sir Richard Rich was of an ancient family in Yorkshire; had studied the laws in the Middle Temple, and being very instrumental in assisting King Henry the Eighth in carrying his avaricious schemes into execution, was rewarded by that monarch not only with the most honorable offices, but with the most profitable likewise. He was made lord chancellor of England

land by king Edward the Sixth; who also created him baron of Lees. In endeavouring privately to assist the duke of Somerset in his troubles, he was impeached, and obliged to resign the seal. Hereupon he retired to his seat at Lees, where he spent the remainder of his life in acts of piety and devotion. He founded a free-school and alms-house at Lees. Notwithstanding he was so strenuous in assisting at the suppression of the monasteries, he continued a papist; but his zeal in that undertaking may easily be accounted for by the immense share of the plunder of those houses which fell to his lot. He died in June 1566, at his house at Rochford, was buried at Felstead; and was succeeded by his son Robert; from whom they passed to his son Robert, created earl of Warwick; who was succeeded in title and estates by his son Robert; which last mentioned Robert was succeeded by a son of the same name. This third earl of Warwick dying without male issue, was succeeded by his brother Charles; and he at his decease, (as I have observed before) left this estate with others to his eldest sister's eldest son Robert Montague earl of Manchester: whose third son afterwards came into possession of this estate together with the title. His son William succeeded him; and about the year 1723 sold this state to the trustees of Edmund Sheffield, the young duke of Buckingham; who dying in 1735, under age and unmarried, this estate, with others, descended to his half brother Charles Her-

bert, who took the surname of Sheffield, and was afterwards created a baronet: of him the governors of Guy's hospital purchased Lees priory; and they have caused the priory and seat to be taken down, all but the gate-house, and a few trifling buildings, and the lands to be converted into farms.

Charitable Benefactions.

TWENTY shillings per annum by Mrs. Asplet.

FOUR barrels and a half of herrings, the same as Great Waltham, being part of the gift of Richard lord Rich.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church stands near half a mile on the left-hand from the road-side leading from Chelmsford to Braintree: it is a small building and of one pace with the chancel. At the west end is a small wooden spire shingled, in which is one bell.

AGAINST the east wall of the chancel is a small grey marble monument to the memory of Herman Olmius, esq. but the inscription is so much decayed that it cannot be read. And against the north wall of the chancel is a neat marble monument, almost new, erected to the memory of Katharine, wife of George Richards, of New-Inn, in the county of Middlesex, esq.

LITTLE LEES RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

John Morgan, M. A.
1750.

Rt. hon. lord Waltham.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 9 0 0

£ 0 18 0

WITHAM HUNDRED.

BETWEEN thirty-four and thirty-eight miles from London; adjoining to the east, and north-east parts of Chelmsford-hundred lies this of Witham; being bounded on the north by those of Hinckford and Lexdon; on the east by part of Hinkford and Thurstable; on the west by Dunmow, and on the south by Dengy-hundred. Its situation is extremely good; and the lands in general very fertile. It consists of fourteen parishes, which we shall treat of in the order following.

Witham,	Bradwell,
Ulting,	Cressing,
Hatfield Peverell,	Revenhall,
Terling,	Falkbourne,
Little Brackstead,	Fairstead,
Great Brackstead,	White Notley,
Kelvedon,	Black Notley,

CHART-LEE hamlet, (which I have observed be-

fore to be in this hundred) has already been described under the parish of Great Lees, where it lies.

THE ecclesiastical jurisdiction of this hundred is within the archdeaconry of Colchester.

W I T H A M

IS a neat, pleasant, and well built town, situate rather more than thirty-seven miles from London; between eight and nine from Chelmsford, and about fourteen from Colchester, the high road to and from these places lying thro' it, as well as to the principal parts of Suffolk and Norfolk. It is a post town, on which account it has some very good inns. Tho' not large in appearance, yet it is so in extent, as round the church, (which is at some distance from the road,) situate on an eminence, distinguished by the name of Cheping-hill, are many houses that compose a part of the town of Witham.—It has a market for grain on Tuesdays, which is kept in that part of the town situate on the high road; but it was formerly held on a Sunday upon Cheping-hill; from which circumstance it is so called, the Saxon word *ceping* signifying *merchandize*. Two fairs are held here annually, one on the Monday before Whitsunday; the other on September 14.

EDWARD, the son of king Alfred, commonly called Edward the Elder, built this town in the beginning of his reign, and resided at Maldon during the time it was building.—The assizes were held here
in

in July 1568. Several writers of eminence have contended that here stood the Roman station *Ad An-*
nam; but not one of them being able to bring any material circumstance to strengthen this conjecture, I shall pass to matters of more importance, and of which we have certain proof; viz. that the parish is reckoned remarkably healthy; contains three good water corn-mills; has a small manufactory for sars carried on in it; and for a considerable time past has been divided into the under-named manors; viz. Great Witham or Cheping Witham or Newelond; Little Witham or Powers; Blount's-hall; Hlobregge or Hubbridge-hall, Batisford's, and the manor of the vicarage.

THE manor of GREAT WITHAM has a good mansion in the middle of the town, on the left hand side the road going from Chelmsford to Colchester. It originally belonged to the Saxon Harold, who ascended the throne: we find it afterwards in Eustace earl of Boulon (so frequently mentioned in the course of this history) and afterwards was called the honor of Bonanda one of the four ancient honors* in this kingdom. The three others were Dover-castle in Kent, Hawley or Hagoneth castle in Suffolk, and Peverall, in Nottinghamshire; of either of which, whatever person held lands by knights service, held them likewise of the king in capite — Afterwards it fell to king Stephen; and he gave it to the

* An honor is a more noble seigniority or lordship, on which other lordships and manors depend, by performance of customs and services.

knights

knights templars ; with whom it continued some time, and afterwards with the knights hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, till the general suppression ; when this house and it's revenues fell to the crown ; but being refounded afterwards by queen Mary the First, she granted them the manors of Witham, Purfleet, Temple-Rodon, and Chingeford, in this county ; but which reverted again to the crown at her death ; where they continued till king Charles the First sold this manor to Henry Smith, otherwise Nevill ; whose ancestors long enjoyed it ; from whom it passed into the families of Blackman, Rennet, and Sayer ; in the last of which it now continues, being the property of Mrs. Martha Sayer, relict of the late George Sayer, D. D.—The courts for the manors of Great Witham and Newelond are held at the same time and place for both, but the court-rolls are distinct ; and the customs remarkable ; the owners of all the freehold lands in them being obliged to pay one whole year's value of those lands upon every death and alienation in certain for a fine, unless he shall be born within the manor to which his lands belong ; in which case he pays a double quitrent only, and is excused paying any further fine.

THE manor of Little Witham or Power's-hall, has a good mansion, situate about three quarters of a mile from the church, on the left side the road leading from Witham to Braintree. After passing through a number of possessors, we find it now in the same owner as Great Witham manor.

Blunts-

BLUNTS-HALL MANOR lies in three parishes; viz. Witham, Hatfield-Peverell, and Terling: the mansion belonging thereto is situate on the right hand, about a mile from the high road leading from Witham to London. This manor was formerly in three parcels; but became united in the Blund family; from whom it passed to those Veleyns, Ludham, Bacon, Montgomery, Fortescue, Weston earl of Portland, Whitelock, Pettyward, where it continues, being now enjoyed by Roger Mortlake Pettyward, D. D. chancellor of Chichester.

THE manor of Hobregge or Hubbridge-hall has a mansion called the Dove-house, on the left hand side the road leading from Witham to London.—It has been in numerous possessors; among whom we find it in the families of Mortimer, Brikener, Tabbot Archdecken, Gurnay, Lucy, Jenour, Sir Anthony Abdy, and Lingard; in the last of which it now continues.

THE manor of BATISFORD's is a grant from the honor of Grafton in free socage of all rents and services whatever, but not in chief. The manor is small having no copyhold tenants. The mansion stands in Witham street, almost over against Newelond mansion-house. It has been in the families of Freborne, Boseville, Meade, Jackson: and is now in ——— Abbot, gent. of Ipswich.

THE vicarage is a manor, called Hog-end: it hath a court leet and baron: of which the vicar is lord. The mansion adjoins the church-yard, is a
large

large and elegant house, fitted up at a great expence by the late vicar, George Sayer, D. D. and the gardens are equal to the house; by which circumstance they are rendered rather an incumbrance to the clergyman than useful, being only fit for the residence of a person of considerable fortune. The present vicar not living there all the year, they seem to be falling into decay very fast.

BESIDES the manors already described, there is in this parish a capital messuage called Bacon's or Abbot's, situated by the highway, leading from Cheping-hill to Falkbourne, which remains still in the Heathcote family, and is let by them on a long building lease to lord Stourton, who has added greatly to the house, and make it a commodious and elegant habitation.

AT the entrance into Witham from Colchester, upon the left hand, is a very good house and gardens, belonging to the right hon. James Hamilton, earl of Abercorn.

A GOOD estate belonging to Bennington-hall lies chiefly in this parish; and is enjoyed by Elizabeth, wife of Edmund Lascelles, esq. in her own right.

GENERAL DOUGLAS has a good house in this parish.

Charitable Benefactions.

DAME CATHARINE BARNARDISTON, in 1650, demised a house to the minister of this parish for ever, provided he preached on Tuesdays in the afternoon:

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but the feoffees gave consent to have two sermons on the sabbath instead thereof. — She likewise gave one hundred pounds, the interest of which was to be laid out in bread, and distributed to twelve poor widows every Sunday. The inhabitants purchased some lands and tenements therewith, and settled them in trust; but have since converted some of the tenements into a work-house.

AN alms-house, endowed with three pounds a year, for the use of two poor widows of this parish, was given by George Armond, gent. in the reign of Charles the First.

Two alms-houses on Cheping-hill, endowed with eighteen pounds a year, after having been lost near eighty years, were recovered by the vigilance of Dr. Warley, late vicar of this parish; ten pounds a year are allowed to four widows living in these two alms-houses: the rest goes towards beautifying the church.

FIVE alms-houses were demised to certain feoffees by a feoffment, dated February 28, 1687, for the use of ten poor widows, and endowed with thirty-five pounds ten shillings per annum.

FIFTY pounds, the interest of which is to be laid out in bread and given every Sunday, to six poor women frequenting the established church, was given by the above-mentioned Dr. Warley. The trustees are the persons who are to chuse proper objects. — The same gentleman gave also one hundred pounds towards establishing of an orthodox school, for teaching poor children of the said parish; who are not to be admitted under the age of

eight, nor to exceed that of fourteen, during the time of education. The minister and church-wardens are to appoint the children.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church stands upon an eminence, about half a mile west from the town, by the said of the highway leading therefrom to Braintree. It is a good building, but cannot be called a large one, if we consider the extent of the parish and number of the inhabitants. The walls both of church and steeple are of Roman flint, except the top of the tower, which is of brick; the body of the church is leaded, and the chancel tiled. It has been very neatly fitted up this summer at a considerable expence: in it is a good organ, which was given by Dr. Warley to this parish, with this proviso, that it should continue as long as the parishioners should think fit to make use of it: otherways, to be removed by the consent of the diocesan, to any church or chapel the then vicar, (Dr. Warley) or his heirs should nominate.—The king's arms, carved in wood, standing over the entrance into the chancel is esteemed worthy the observation of the curious, on account of the extraordinary workmanship.

IN the chancel are five monuments: on the north side, in 1585, a large tomb was erected to the memory (as we are informed by the inscription) of John Heathcotte, a judge in queen Elizabeth's reign, and proprietor of Witham-place. Upon the
tomb

tomb are carved two figures, as large as life, intended to represent the judge and his lady. It is inclosed with iron rails. The inscription not containing any thing worthy my readers perusal, I have omitted it.

THE next in date is a mural monument of white marble on the same side the chancel, containing two figures kneeling at an altar, the man dressed in armour, agreeable to the custom of ancient times. The inscription informs us it was erected to the memory of Sir Thomas Neville, and his lady, descended from a very ancient family of that name of Yorkshire. It is dated 1593. During the usurpation of Cromwell, this monument was injured, but it is still neat, and an ornament to the church.

ON the same side the chancel is a very elegant monument of white and grey marble, erected to the memory of William East, of the Middle Temple. The inscription which is wrote in Latin, informs us of his family and connections; concluding with such fulsome compliments to the deceased, that however great his merit was, I think he must be exceedingly hurt if he could just raise his head, and read his own eulogium.

VERY near the altar, on the north side likewise, a neat black marble monument informs us, that George Lisle, formerly vicar of this parish, was buried near this place.

On the south side the chancel is a very large vault, belonging to an ancient family of the name of

Bennet, sometimes lords of Witham; but there are not any monuments.

UPON a white marble monument in the chancel is the following inscription :

Juxta hoc marmor

*Condita sunt reliquæ Roberti Barwell, generosi
filii Dni Roberti, and Marthaæ Barwell; plusquam
annos bis octoginta enumerantium ipsi
proh dolor! subito apoplexiæ ictui succubuit.*

*Anno { Salutis 1697, }
 { Ætatis suæ 44, } Julii 27.*

*In uxorem sibi ascivit Saram Josephi Newman,
Generosi de Colchestria filiam; quatuor supersunt liberi, duo
filii, totidemq. filia, ipsi charissimi, Newmanus Ruberr.
Sarah & Martha, qui præmatura bonæ indolis edunt
specimina; primogenitus pietatis ergo hoc posuit
monumentum.*

*Dum multos longæva parens numeravit annos
Filius ante diem rapitur; quam rara senectus?
Quid medicina valet? nil plus ars victa Galeni?
Contendunt luctu proles & flebile marmor;
Quæ tanti fletus? tanti quæ causa doloris?
Durior en! Sors est aliis, quos longior ordo
Morborum cruciat, facile hic descendit ad umbras
Vixque Mori dicas, potius sua vita recessit.*

Which rendered into English is as follows: The poetry must of course lose much of it's force by a literal prose translation; however the reader is requested to accept this, which we hope will convey to him the meaning of the author.

Near this monument

*Are interred the remains of Robert Barwell, gent.
Son of Robert and Martha Barwell,*

Whose

WITHAM HUNDRED. 361

Whose ages together amounted to more than a hundred and sixty years.

Whilst he, alas! fell a sacrifice to a sudden stroke of an apoplexy,

In the year of { his salvation 1697, } July 27th.
 { his age 44, }

He married Sarah, daughter of Joseph Newman,
 of Colchester, gentleman.

He left issue four beloved children,

two sons and two daughters,

Newman, Robert, Sarah, and Martha;

Who gave the earliest proof of the goodness of their dispositions.

The eldest hath erected this monument.

Whilst the parents live to an uncommon age,

Behold the offspring is early taken off:

How few number many years? Of what avail is medicine?

Of what benefit the now conquered skill of a Galen!

His children contend who shall manifest most grief.

Even the very marble weeps.

But why all this sorrow! whence the cause of all this lamentation!

When the fate of those whom a long series of illness torments,

Is much worse than this man's.

He descends with ease into his grave:

He can scarcely be said to die.

WITHAM VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Lilly Butler, M. A.

Bishop of London.

October, 1761.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

TENTHS.

£ 22 0 7½

£ 2 4 0¾

ULTING

U L T I N G

IS a small parish; about six miles in circumference, bounded by the river Chelmer on the south, and Hatfield-Peverell on the north-side. The chief estates herein are Ulting-hall, and Mugdon-hall.

THE former of these estates at the time of the general survey was holden of Ralph Baynard; whose grandson enjoyed it after him for a short time only, he being dispossessed of it by king Henry the First for siding with Robert duke of Normandy in his attempt to deprive that king of his crown. It was afterwards given to Robert, a younger son of Richard Fitz Gilbert, progenitor to the ancient earls of Clare: and from him sprung the noble family of Fitzwalter. We find it since him possessed by the families of Fitz-Robert, Ulting, Bouchier, Stafford, Bouchier again, Sir William Parr, Heneage, Collins, Walter Carew, and Robert Fairfax, esqrs. and is now in Joseph Banks, esq. counsellor at law.

THE manor of Mugdon-hall, otherwise called Moughton-hall, is so named after an ancient family who possessed it for many years. Some of the lands extend into Hatfield-Peverell and Little Badow, two adjoining parishes. In old records it is written many different ways. --- It has passed through the families of Huntingfield, Rikhell, and Smyth, to
that

that of Aylmer, in which last it continues, being now the property of — Aylmer, esq. The mansion is a very good one, well watered, and hath exceeding pleasant gardens belonging to it: it is now occupied by Henry Lovibond Collins, esq.

The church is small, and built of stone. At the west end is a wooden turret, with a shingled spire, containing two bells. The church yard as well as parish and hundred are bounded by the Chelmer.

ULTING RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Robert Hay, M. A.

Miss Tyrrels, minors,

CLEAR YEARLY VALUE.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 18 10 0

£ 0 14 5

It is a discharged living.

HATFIELD PEVEREL

JOINS Ulting parish upon the south, and lies chiefly on the high road between Boreham and Witham. The soil in general is light and gravelly. It is called after the Saxon word *Hedfelda*, signifying a *beathy* or *bushey field*. The word *Peverell* (from an ancient owner,) is used to distinguish it from the other Hatfield in this county, called Hatfield Broad-oak. — The manors, or capital estates in this parish are

are called the manor of Hatfield-Peverell; the priory and manor of Hatfield-Peverell: the manor of Ernettfee; Marshalls, and Toppingo.

THE first-named of these manors is likewise called Hatfield Terminus or Termytts; the mansion of which is called Hatfield-bury, and lies about a mile north of the church. — The accounts of the possessors of this estate is not clear till we find it in the Bacon family, in 1310; from whom it has descended to the families of Berghersh, Arundel, Thomas, son, of Jeffry Chaucer, the famous poet; whose daughter married William de la Pole, duke of Suffolk, whose grandson, John earl of Lincoln engaged in Lambert Simnel's affairs, was slain in battle at Stoke in Nottinghamshire, in June 1487, and this estate, among his many other possessions, became forfeited to the crown; from whence it was granted to Oliver St. John, esq. whose posterity enjoyed it for many generations, till one of them sold it to Anthony Collins, of the Middle-Temple, esq. and it is now enjoyed by the hon. Robert Fairfax, esq. and Henry Lovibond Collins, esq.

THE priory and manor of Hatfield-Peverell, was one of the thirty-five lordships in this county with which the conqueror rewarded Ranulph Peverell, a Norman lord, who had attended him to England. Besides which, he had nineteen in Suffolk, six in Norfolk, and four in Shropshire, presented him by the same monarch. This Peverell married the daughter of Ingelric, a noble Saxon, who had been remarkable

ble for her great beauty, and had borne to the Conqueror a son, William, owner of Nottingham castle and many other lordships. This is imagined to be the cause of his being loaded with so many estates. Ingelrica, in her latter days repenting of her past vices, and to atone for them, founded here, in the time of William Rufus, a college of secular canons, dedicated to the Virgin Mary; in which she spent the remainder of her days; and at her decease, in the year 1100, was buried in the church, where her image hewn in stone, is to be seen in one of the windows. Her legitimate son by Ranulph, named William Peverell, who was governor of Dover, converted this college into a monastery, given even his own house for an habitation for the Monks; and endowed the foundation, among other estates, with the manor and rectory; out of which a vicarage was appointed, of which the prior and convent were patrons till the dissolution; when the yearly income of this monastery amounted to eighty-three pounds nineteen shillings and seven pence. The monks maintained in it were only four, with the prior. King Henry the Eighth granted this monastery and it's demesnes to Giles Leigh, who soon after alienated them to the Alleyn family; where they continued for many generations. The sister of Sir Edmund Alleyn, the last of that name, marrying the Rev. Mr. Chalmers, rector of Little Waltham, it was enjoyed some time by that gentleman in right of his wife. She dying about the year 1762, and

leaving a son and daughter, minors, her estates were put under the direction of the court of chancery, and about two years since, by an order from that court, the above manor was sold to ——— Wright, esq. who this summer has pulled down the old mansion, which joined the church, and is now building a very elegant house upon an eminence at a small distance, commanding an agreeable prospect.

THE manor of Earnest-fee is derived from the manor of Hatfield priory; notwithstanding which it seems in some respects superior to it, as a constable is chosen here annually. It is likewise called Ern's, Erin's, or Bovington's. The mansion belonging hereto stands near the road leading to Maldon, at the bottom of Hatfield-green.---Having been part of the endowment of St. Gregory's college, in Sudbury, in this county, we find it granted after the suppression to the Alleyn-family. In 1632 Edmund Alleyn, esq. died possessed of this estate; from whom it has passed in like manner as Hatfield-priory, to his descendants, and is now in the same owner.

SMALLAND'S, or MARSH'S manor, the lands of which extend into the parish of Wickham, has a mansion about a mile north-east of the church. Paul Viscount Bayning, in 1622, held this estate of the lord of the manor of White Notley; with whom he compounded for the disforesting it; it contained three hundred acres. Of the heirs of which Bayning it

it was purchased by —— Lingard, esq. vintner of London; in whose family it remains.

THE manor of Toppingoe-hall, formerly named Filiols, has a house on the right-hand side the road going from Witham to Chelmsford. In 1542, it was in the Stydole family; and passed from them through those of Sammes, Godbolt, Thompson, Mortimer; from which last it was sold to the right hon. lady Abercon the present proprietor.

A VERY good seat in this parish, named Crix, is the property of Mrs. Bragg, relict of ---- Bragg, esq.

HATFIELD-WICK belongs to John Strutt, of Terling, esq.

Charitable Benefactions.

IN pursuance of a commission for charitable uses, dated November 8, 1679, a new deed of feoffment was made in May 1681 to the minister of this parish, and several of the inhabitants, of the messuages, lands, &c. following.

A CLOSE of pasture, containing five roods, lying in this parish.

Two tenements called Mason's Gardens, in this parish.

A MESSUAGE with a garden, and curtilage adjoining, in this parish.

LANDS and tenements called Londis, with a meadow adjoining, in this parish.

A MESSUAGE on the highway leading from Maldon to Theling in this parish.

A A A 2

Lands

LANDS and tenements where the parish work-house now stands, worth about fifteen pounds per annum.

A MESSUAGE, with appurtenances, and two crofts of land and pasture ground, called Howlet's or Wheeler's, containing about nine acres, in Much Totham parish, and a cottage erected upon part of the land.

A PIECE of meadow in Wickham parish, containing three roods. These lands in Totham and Wickham, were purchased and settled in pursuance of the last will of Sir Edmond Alleyn, bart. who directed that land, to the value of one hundred pounds, should be bought, and five pounds of the interest thereof to be employed by the direction of the heir of his family, the minister, church-wardens, and overseers of the parish for ever towards schooling and binding out poor children apprentices only in the cloathing trade, as they should think fit.

Two parts into three to be divided of those three several pieces of meadow in Little Baddow, each of them containing an acre more or less: and two parts into three to be divided in all the other lands and tenements in Little Badow, agreeable to the will of John Chalk of Boreham, carpenter; formerly bought with forty-six pounds taken out of the common treasury of Hatfield, and settled in trust for relief of the poor inhabitants of this parish, as the majority of the trustees shall think fit. And
also

also one third of the same three several pieces of meadow in Little Badow.

THE lands, &c. late of Thomas Saffold, formerly purchased by Thomas Saffold with twenty-three pounds ten shillings, part of the stock of Hatfield, for the relief of the poor at the discretion of the majority of the trustees.

A FARM in this parish, lying in the way from Hatfield-green to Wickham-mills, belongs to the school at Maldon.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church which formerly belonged to this parish, stood upon an eminence near the river, in a field between Hatfield-bury and Terling. A tene-ment called Brigman's-broom, another named Londs; and a croft called Danseys, all in this parish, were endowments for four obiits in it.

THE present church is that which belonged to the priory: it consists of a spacious body and chancel, tyled: a north ayse leaded; and a small turret, at the west end, in which is one bell.

THE vicar hath a stipend of twenty-five pounds per annum, the gift of Sir Edmund Alleyn; and thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence, paid by the owner of the priory.

UPON the north side the church is a neat mural monument to the memory of one of the Bragg family. In the chancel are some inscriptions to the
memory

memory of several of the Alleyn family, but none worth the reader's notice except the following, wrote in Old English characters upon a brass plate on the ground, with the effigies of the gentleman and his family over the inscription; which as a curious specimen of ancient English poetry, may perhaps afford him some amusement.

Under this tombe lyeth buried an esqyer
 John Alleyn by his name
 And his three wyffe with him lye here
 Interred in the same
 Whose uertues nowe and godly minde
 Yf I woulde hould my peace
 The poore which did it prove I fyn'd
 To speake it will not cease
 By his first wyffe God gave him store
 With blessed encrease betweene the twaina
 Of sonnes three and dawghters ffowre
 Whereof as yeat fowre doth remain
 For beinge Lord while he did lyve
 And patrone of this same
 Daily he dide his alms give
 And virtue doeth remaine
 Them bodies and their life therefore
 So longe as here they lived
 Bothe to the riche and eke the poore
 Was dere and well beloved
 Their soules no doubt in heaven above
 Are now as angels blest
 With Christ who doth them deerly love
 In joye and quiet rest
 Whose life departed the first of December anno Domini
 1572.

Hatfield.

HATFIELD PEVERELL VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

William Masters, A. M.
And-Fellow of New College,
Oxford, June 1764.

— Wright, esq.

CLEAR YEARLY VALUE.

TENTHS.

£. 39 16 8

£. 0 16 0

It is a discharged living.

T E R L I N G

IS a parish pleasant in its situation, and rich in it's soil; distant from Chelmsford eight miles; from Witham about three; lying between Hatfield-Peverell and Fairstead, and bounded on the west by Chelmsford hundred. It contains the following manors and capital estates; viz.

THE manor of Terling-place, which has a good mansion standing near the church. This manor was originally part of the endowment of the abbey of Ely; but several of the natives of the country having taking sanctuary here, soon after the landing of William the Conqueror, he took it from the abbey and gave it Ralph Peverell. Under the Bohuns, (earls of Essex and Hereford) who soon after enjoyed it, we find it held by the bishop of Norwich, who had a park and palace here; as also a chapel, with
the

the privilege of sanctuary; to which the famous Hubert de Bergh, earl of Kent and chief justice, fled from the displeasures of his sovereign king Henry the Third. This was likewise one of the places of residence of king Henry the Eighth, as appears from the date of several acts of that monarch, in particular his creating Sir Edward Seymour Viscount Beauchamp, in the year 1536; in which year that monarch granted this manor, with the advowson, rectory, and vicarage, to Thomas Audley, lord chancellor of England, and Thomas Pomell: from the family of the former of these it passed by marriage to Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk, and he sold it to Thomas Mildmay, of Moulsham-hall, esq. some of whose posterity parted with it to Thomas Western, of Rivenhall, esq. who gave it, with his daughter, in marriage to Henry Featherstone, esq. of whose family it was purchased by the present owner John Strutt, esq. descended from Sir Denner Strutt, of Little Warley, bart.

THE manor of Margeries or Terling-hall, which has a pleasant mansion about a mile from the church, was formerly belonging to the Knights Hospitallers; but fell to the crown at the dissolution of religious houses: from which time it seems to have been divided till it came into the Smyth family, about the year 1554, from whom it passed into that of Shaw, and came from them by marriage into that of Godbolt, where it continues, being at present enjoyed by John Godbolt, esq.

The

THE manor of Ringers has a mansion rather more than a mile distant from the church. About the year 1618 this manor was in a family named Rochester, from whom it passed to those of Roberts, Haver of Norfolk, Taverner of Halstead, Godbolt, and Harris; of which last it was purchased by the late Mr. John Strutt of Maldon, and is now the property of Joseph Strutt, of Moulsham.

LOWES, or LOY'S-HALL, a reputed manor in this parish, has been the seat of several respectable families. The house was remarkably large, but a great part of it has been taken down by the present proprietor: however there is sufficient left to render it a very good and commodious farm-house; it has a moat around it. This estate is likewise the property of Joseph Strutt, esq. in which worthy family is the greatest part of this parish.

RIDLEY-HALL manor has a mansion standing near a mile from the church towards that of Great Lees. The accounts of the different possessors of this manor are very uncertain, and chiefly founded on conjecture till we find it in the family of Browne; from whom it passed to the noble owner of New-hall, with which it was purchased by Benjamin Hoare, esq. who sold it to Thomas Chitty, esq. lord-mayor of London in 1760; and it is now in his successors.

OKENDON-FEE, otherwise named Owl's-hill, is an estate in this parish facing the road from Fairstead, belonging to Mr. Hollis.

In this parish a leet belonging to Cressing temple is kept on the last day of December; and by prescription two constables and two weighers of bread are chosen. They pay a fine to the lord of ten groats.

Charitable Benefactions.

ABOUT half a mile from the church, and near the green, are alms-houses for three dwellers; and near the church are others for two dwellers.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

FORMERLY the church was appendant to the manor of Terling-place which belonged to the bishops of Norwich, who it is conjectured got the vicarage ordained here, of which they continued patrons till the reign of Henry the Eighth: since when it hath passed with the manor, and is now in John Strutt, esq.

OUT of the great tythes of this parish the vicar of Broomfield has portions: and twenty marks are paid for the alms-houses at Moulsham, and other purposes.

THE church is a spacious building, in good repair, and consists of a body, south ayse, and chancel: the ayse is covered with lead, but the other part is tiled only. The chancel has lately been elegantly fitted up by John Strutt, esq. the impropriator. In 1730 the steeple having been repaired in a manner
not

not sufficiently substantial, the foundation suddenly gave way, and the north, south, and west sides of it fell to the ground, leaving the bells, five in number, suspended in the frame, supported only by the east side of the steeple; in which state it continued till props could be brought from Maldon, which is between five and six miles distant from them; and in 1732, (as appears by the following inscription under the clock on the west side,) it was rebuilt with brick.

Spatio vetusta fesso
ruinam dedi:
duabusq; illapsis messibus
tertia,
Johanne Scott
&
Daniele Stammers
Ædilibus.
Spectator surrexi
Antonio Gould Latomo
Anno sal. humanæ 1732.

THE meaning of this inscription is no more than that being very old it fell down; and continuing in that state for two years, it was rebuilt in the third, being the year 1732, John Scott and Daniel Stammers, the church-wardens; and Anthony Gould, the builder.

ON the wall, at the east end of the ayse, the following inscriptions are fixed up, engraven on a brass plate, without any monument, to the memory of two of the Rochester family, formerly owners of the manor of Ringers, in this parish.

B B B 2

Within

Within this yle of Terling is enterred an esquier,
Whose lyfe to vertues path was bent till Death dyde clayme his
biere

His name hyght Wm Rochester with whome lyeth buried here

Eliz. his only wyfe, a lowinge faithfull feere

The fatal darte of pryng Death, hyr lyfe dide take away

In July moneth departed shee, the nyne and twenty day,

A thousand and five hundreth yeres, from Christ his incarnation

And fyfye-fyxe the truth to showe, as tyme will make relacon

The worthy, gentleman not longe, be-hynde his lovyng wyfe

The seconde of September dyde, yelde vpe his mortall lyfe

In anno, as I sayd before, of hundreds five times three

And fifty eight his soule dyde goe, where all Gods chosyn bee

Armiger australi templi est hoc parte sepultus

Cujus jam corpus putrida gleba tegit

Hic Rochestleri Johannis nomen habebat

Cujus dum vixit vita beata fuit

Uxores binas tempore duxit

Morte prior cecidit, posteriorque manet

Filiolas gennit septem ex uxore priori

Tres quoque filiolos pignora chara toni

Posterior peperit puerum sibi filiolumq;

Filia nata prima posteriorq; puer

Ipsi morte flendi multis bona causa est

Pauperi et imprimis cujus amicus erat

Sed quamvis telo corpus mors fixit acuto

Vivet in æternum fama deusq; suum

Anno milleris quingeno atq; octageno

Et quarto Dm conditus ipse fuit.

Ultimo die mensis Martii, 1584.

THAT in Latin is pretty much in the same strain
with the English one, only informing the reader, that
John Rochester, esq. married two wives, had twelve
children, was a charitable man, and died in 1584.

However

However being very ancient and somewhat curious, I have given them to the reader, not indeed so perfect as I could have wished, because being greatly defaced by time, there are a few words I am not quite certain of having copied right.

TERLING VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Charles Philips, A. M.

John Strutt, esq.

1765.

CLEAR YEARLY VALUE.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 46 0 0

£ 1 0 0

LITTLE BRACKSTEAD

ADJOINING to the parish of Witham on the east, and bounded by Thurstable hundred on the south-south-east, and by Great Brackstead on the north, lies Little Brackstead, which is very small, being not above three miles in circumference. It has but one manor, which for many generations was possessed by a family named Roberts; who were succeeded therein by the family of the Aylets, and they by that of Rush, in which it now continues, being the property of John Rush, esq.

Bene-

Charitable Benefactions.

A HOUSE and lands of eight pounds per annum were given by John Goddeshalfe, out of which ten shillings is paid for quit rent to the lord of the manor, and one shilling and eight pence to the king.—The farm from which this charity is paid is the only one in the parish that is not the property of John Rush, esq.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church and chancel are of brick, tiled, having at the west end a spire, shingled, containing two bells.—The rectory was formerly appendant to the manor till it was suffered to laspe to the bishop on account of it's remarkable smallness; and from him to the lord chancellor. It was held by the rector of Great Brackstead by sequestration till the seals were taking out.—As for monuments there are not any; and inscriptions not one worth recording.

LITTLE BRACKSTEAD RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

John Lewis, M. A.

John Rush, esq.

CLEAR YEARLY VALUE.

TENTHS.

£ 21 11 6

£ 0 6 8

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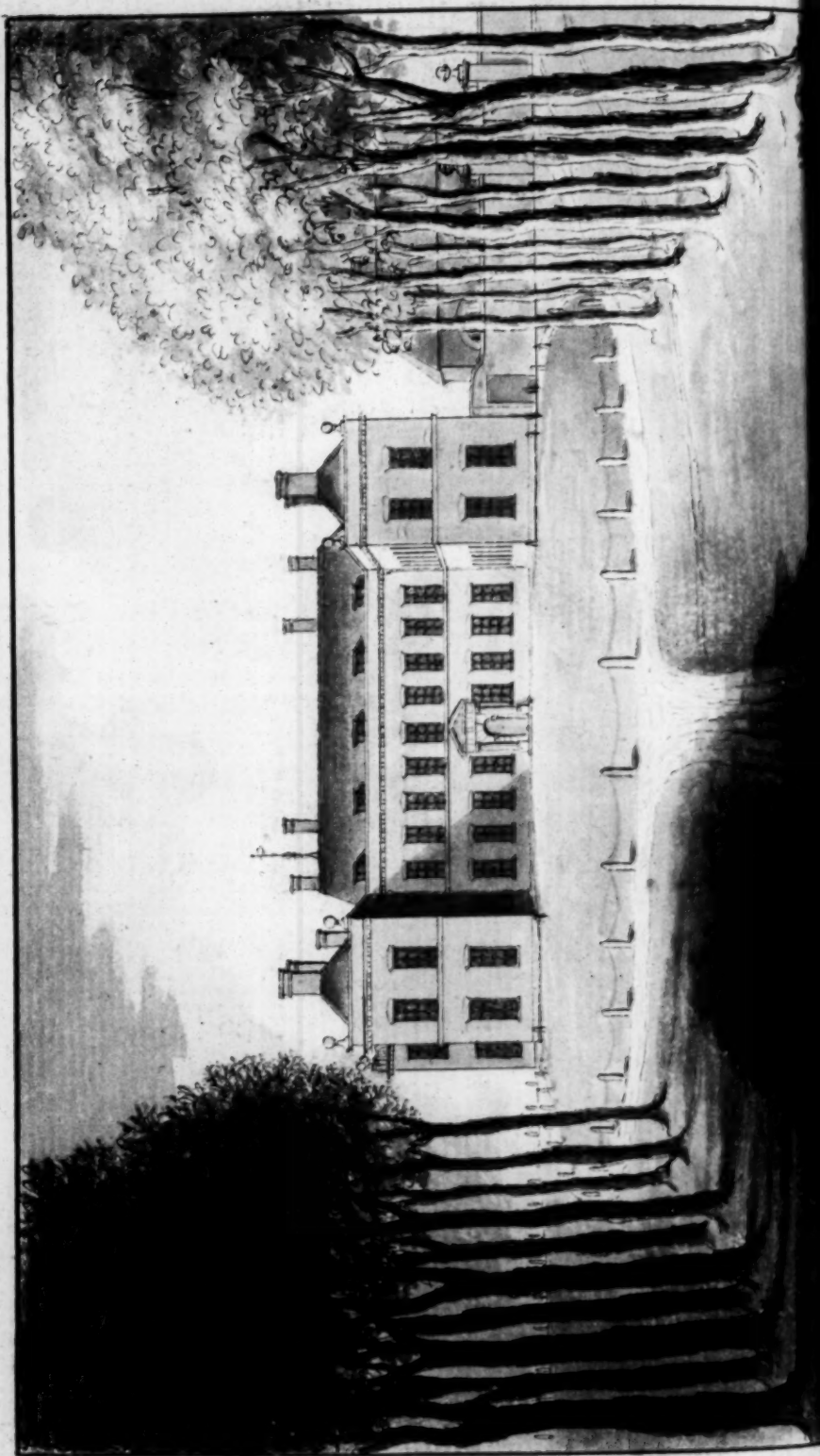
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EAT



GREAT BRACKTEAD

ADJOINS the other parish of that name, on it's north side: it is situate from Witham three miles, and from Colchester about twelve. Besides a manor called by the same name as the parish, it partly contains two others; namely West-hall and Briddinghoe.

THE mansion house of the former of these manors, stands near the church, and according to the best accounts, this manor at the general survey was the property of Eudo Dapifer; and in the reigns of king Henry and king John, of a family surnamed de Anefty; from whom it passed into those of William de Montcheny, de Veres, de Valance, de Hastings, Talbot, de Gray, Montgomery, Ayloff, Maynard, Cotton, Darcy, Whetcome, Cornelisen; from the last of which it was sold to the present owner Peter Du Cane, esq. of Great Coggeshall, who was high-sheriff for this county in the year 1745.

A VERY elegant seat called Braxted Lodge, surrounded by a park, and standing upon an eminence which commands a most agreeable prospect of the neighbouring country, makes a considerable part of this manor: it is occupied by the present owner and his family.

Charles

CHARLES BUXTON, esq. has a very good house in this parish, with spacious gardens well watered, and abounding with many elegant buildings that render it a most agreeable summer residence.

AND the Rev. Mr. John Cott, the rector of this parish, has also within these few years new fronted his parsonage with brick; so that these three houses standing within sight of each other, and the park of the one, together with the grounds and gardens of the other adjoining, render this as agreeable a spot as any in the whole neighbourhood.

THE united manors of Bennington and West-hall extend into this parish, but are taken notice of under Witham parish.

THE site of the manor and priory of Tiptree are in this parish: the priory was appointed for Black Canons, or Canons of St. Augustine, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and to St. Nicholas. Neither the time when, or who founded this priory, is known; but that it was standing in the reign of king Edward the First appears from the prior's having leave to impark sixty acres of land. The family of Montcheny were the principal benefactors to it. In the year 1235 it was granted to Cardinal Wolfey towards the endowment of his two colleges; and was then valued at twenty-two pounds sixteen shillings and four pence. There did belong to it, at that time, a church, but which is now destroyed. It was granted upon the Cardinal's attainder to John Huddleston, esq. afterwards knighted; and went from him to the families

families of Darcy, Bennet, Acris, Pemberton Lightmaker, Peacock, Forster, Skinner, Brassy, Horne, and Price; in which last-named family it continues, being possessed by the widow of Thomas Price. esq. late recorder of Colchester.

A VERY great part of Tiptree-heath belongs to this manor, though not the whole, as it extends into several of the adjoining parishes. A lease of this heath (which contains several hundred acres,) was granted by the crown for thirty-one years to the late Philip Bennet, esq. but it does not appear that he could make any advantage by it.

A VERY considerable fair for cattle and toys is held annually on the 25th of July upon the last-named manor.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church is delightfully situated upon an eminence, commanding a most agreeable prospect: it is neat, of one pace with the chancel, both of which are tiled. At the west end is a tower, containing four bells, having a steeple shingled.

THERE has lately been built by the owners of the Lodge a very good room adjoining to the church, with a fire-place for their accommodation when they attend divine service; and underneath this room is a vault intended as a burying-place for the family: it is at present quite empty; and as the family it is intended one day to contain, are worthy and well-dis-

posed, we shall be happy to find it for many years to come in it's present unoccupied state.

THE rectory formerly was appendant to the manor, but at the time the manor passed from the Talbot family to the lord de Grey, of Ruthen, the rectory still continued in the Talbot family; of whom it was purchased by Thomas Tooke, D. D. and given with that of Lambourn to Bennet, or Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

UPON a marble stone, fixed against the south side of the church, but on the outside wall, is wrote as under :

The Right Hon. the Countess Delavall

departed this life the

18th Day of November,

In the year of our Lord God 1683.

Salve hospes

Sub pedibus tuis placide obdormiunt

Gulielmus Ayloff, Magnæ Braxteddiæ in comitatu
Hæxiensi baronettus;

Anna honoratissima Dalavalliæ apud Gallos

Comitissa, uxor amantissima

Gulielmus Ayloff, armiger parentibus supradicti
charissimus;

Tres uno in amore, & tumultu conjunctissimi,

Hoc sepulchrale marmor

illustris fœmina, viri mandatis semper morigera,

pōni curavit quo posteris innoscat idem

conditorium solis suis incolis consecrati

ut post exactos vitæ labores cineres immoti
quiescant.

The arms of the family are neatly carved on the same table of black marble.

In English;

Stranger, God speed you!

Under your feet rests in peace

William Ayloff, of Great Brackstead,

in the county of Essex, Baronet;

The most Honorable Countess of Delaval in France

his most loving wife;

and

William Ayloff, esq. the most beloved son

of the parents above-mentioned.

These three are join'd together alike in love

and in the grave.

This marble monument

the illustrious Lady,

ever attentive to the requests of her husband,

hath caused to be erected

to inform posterity

That the same grave was consecrated

to the sole use of these inhabitants,

in order that having travelled through this

troublesome world,

their ashes might rest undisturbed.

GREAT BRACKSTEAD RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

John Cott, B. D.

1762.

PATRON.

Bennet College.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

£. 19 0 0

TENTHS.

£. 1 18 0

Ccc 2

KEL-

KELVEDON

IS a town situate from Witham about four miles; from Colchester ten; and adjoins Great Braxted upon the north side. The great road to and from London to Colchester, Harwich, &c. runs through it. At the west end is a good bridge over a water formerly called Easterford. The learned have given themselves some trouble to account for the derivation of the name of this place; Mr. Morant forms it from the Saxon word *Keld*, a *spring* or *celand*, *cold*: but the learned Dr. Tukely derives it from the Celtic word *celn* signifying *mysterious*, or *to conceal*; from whence *Celi*, the name of God; and the Saxon word *dun* signifying a *hill*, he concludes the meaning of it's original name to be *God's-hill*.--- It is called *Easterford*, or *Easternford* likewise from the ford I have mentioned above being the more eastern ford in regard to Rivenhall water, now covered with a bridge, and to that at Wickham mills. Here is a fair ever Easter Monday. The soil of the parish is gravelly, and the grounds in general in very good condition: upon the river is a corn-mill, and a fulling-mill. The manors herein are four in number; viz.

THE manor of Church-hall, Fœlix-hall, Kelvedon, and Ewell-hall.

The

THE first-named of these stands near the church, and was part of the endowment of Westminster-abbey till the time of the suppression; when that abbey being converted into a bishopric it was granted to the bishop thereof; but the bishopric being soon after dissolved, king Edward the Sixth gave a grant of it to Nicholas Ridley, bishop of London, and his successors; together with the rectory and advowson, with power to convert the rectory to their own use. From which time it hath been held by lease of the several bishops his successors; and is now held by Sir John Barnard of Bramton in Huntingdonshire, bart.

THE manor of Filiol's-hall, otherwise Fœlix-hall, but properly the manor of Kelvedon. This manor originally was in a family named Filiols; but passed from them to that of de Bohun, and from his family went to Sir David Owen, natural son of Tudor, grandfather to king Henry the Seventh; who was succeeded by a family named Southwell, and soon after it came into the possession of king Henry the Eighth. He granted it to Richard Long, esq. a gentleman of his bed-chamber, afterwards knighted: from his family it passed into those of Russel, Cecil, Abdy, from which last family it went by marriage to John Williams, esq. who rebuilt the mansion, and sold it to Daniel Matthew, esq. the high-sheriff of this county for the present year 1769: in which office he has happily distinguished himself by blending

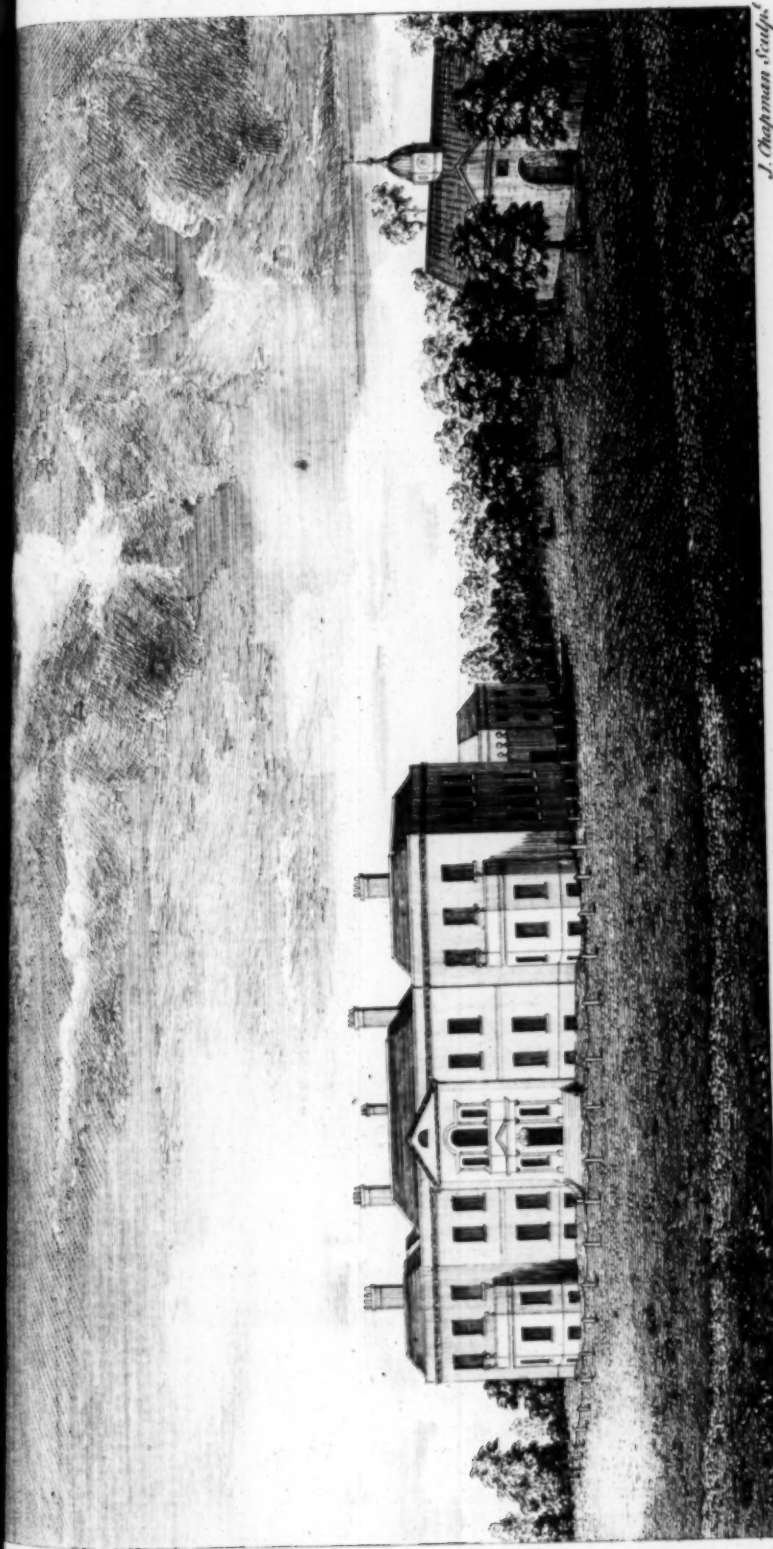
ing the greatest dignity with the most courteous hospitality.

FOELIX-HALL is about a mile from Kelvedon on the left hand side the road leading to Colchester: it is situated on an eminence which commands an agreeable prospect of the Bracksteads and other neighbouring parishes: around it is a small park: it is fitted up in the inside with a magnificence equal to the spirit of the princely owner; and for the print of the outside, given with this number, we are indebted to his bounty. The gardens are laid out with equal taste and elegance, having in them green-houses and hot-houses, with every other requisite to render them useful as well as pleasing.

THE manor of Kelvedon, otherwise called Easterford-hall, in this parish, has a pleasant mansion near a mile from the church, but in Great Brackstead parish. Formerly it belonged to a family who were named de Kelvedone, (after the parish) from whom it has passed to those of Lowdham, and Bleverhassett; the last of which families enjoyed it for above one hundred and fifty years; and it went from them to the family of the Carew, in which it now continues.

THE manor of Ewell-hall took its name from an ancient owner; who was succeeded herein by the families of Fitz-Ralph, Dorewood, and Sammes; the last family were succeeded by that of Cooper; Mrs. Dorothy and Mr. John Cooper have put it in chancery for some time past, and there it remains.

Besides



J. Chapman Sculp.

Felix Hall, the Seat of Daniel Mathews Esq.

Dunthorne Del.

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BESIDES the manors above recited, there are several other valuable estates in this parish, but the intended extent of this work will not permit me to take notice of them.

Charitable Benefactions.

A FREE-SCHOOL was once established here, but the endowment is now by some means or other got into private hands, and the school entirely neglected.

Two little houses and one acre of meadow land were given by Mr. John Marler, for the maintenance of two alms-houses, and a common well.

SOME land in East Thorpe is given for bread to the poor of this parish; and which is distributed to them on a Sunday during a great part of the year.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church is a large building, not very neat, about a quarter of a mile north from the town. It consists of a body, north and south ayse; the chancel has only one ayse. At the west end is a square brick tower with a spire: in the tower are five bells.

THERE are three marble monuments on the south side the church, to the memory of some of the Abdy family, formerly owners of Fœlix-hall; but in the inscription is not any thing remarkable.

KELVEDON VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Edward Chester, A. M.

Bishop of London.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 9 4 2

£ 0 18 5
BRAD-

BRADWELL, near COGGESHALL

IS a parish so called; to distinguish it from a Bradwell *near the Sea*, in Dengy-hundred. It is named from a broad well or spring, arising within the same which flows so plentifully as to turn an overshot mill at a little distance from it. The parish is small, and lies very low; the soil in some parts is heavy, in others extremely light. The only manor within it is called

BRADWELL-HALL, the mansion of which is near the church, and was formerly surrounded by a small park. In the reign of king John a family surname Daggeworth held it; from whom it passed into those of Sutton, Hind, Writtle, Bassett, Bonham, Maxey and Carter; in which last it remains, being at present enjoyed by Capt. Carter; who is likewise owner of another considerable estate in this parish.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS

THE church hath always been appendant to the manor: it is small, and tolerably clean: body and chancel are of one pace, tiled: in the tower at the west end are three bells, and above them a wooden spire shingled.

BEHIND the communion table is a very ancient and noble monument of marble of various colours. it is

about

about fourteen feet high, and twelve broad : the cornice is supported by three pillars of fine polished marble, of the Corinthian order : under an arch on the left, are seen, (as the inscription underneath informs us,) the effigies of Sir Anthony Maxey, kneeling in armour at an altar : together with his lady in the same posture, opposite to him. And under an arch, on the right hand, are those of his son and daughter-in-law, in the same position.—By the inscription we likewise learn, that Sir Anthony Maxey, was of the ancient family of the Maxey's, of Maxey Castle in Lincolnshire.

THERE is likewise another monument in this church to the memory of some others of the Maxey family who were buried here.

AGAINST the east wall of the chancel is fixed a very neat black and white marble monument, put up by Milbourn Carter, esq. the present owner of the manor, in memory of his deceased brother and sister-in-law ; from whom he inherited the fortune, to whom it came by descent from the Maxey's.

BRADWELL RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Rev. Mr. John Coleman. Millborne Carter, esq.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

TENTHS.

£ 12 0 0

£ 1 4 0

VOL. I. No. II:

D D D

CRESSING

CRESSING

ADJOINS Bradwell on the north, Witham on the south, Little Coggeshall on the east, and White-Notley on the west : It is about five miles in circumference ; lies low, and the lands in general are heavy : a few hops are grown here.—King Stephen, about the year 1150, granted this manor, with the advowson of the church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, to the brothers of the knighthood of Solomon's Temple at Jerusalem : from whence it was called Cressing Temple, as belonging to the Knights Templers. When this society were suppressed in the year 1311, this manor was transferred to the hospitallers of St. John at Jerusalem : and when this latter order shared the like fate in 1540, this manor was then granted to Sir William Huse ; and from him passed into the family of Smyth ; who possessed it for a considerable time, and seated themselves here till 1646, when it passed to that of Audley ; and from thence to those of Tuke, and Davies ; some of which last sold it to Herman Olmius, esq. in whose family it continues, being possessed by the right hon. lord Waltham.—The manor-house was formerly a most extensive building, but is now no more than a good farm-house : the former mansion had belonging to it a chapel for divine service, and for the solemnization of christenings and burials, which in 1626 was granted

to William Smith, esq. lord of the manor, his heirs and successors, dwelling in the said house, provided all things performed therein were done agreeable to the book of common-prayer; reserving all rights and duties belonging to the church and vicar of Cressing.

THE church originally was intended as a chapel to Witham, and with that design was founded by Elphelm att Gore, and his wife; who gave twenty acres of land for its maintenance. But when king Stephen granted the rectory of Witham to the canons of St. Martin le Grand, in London, the dean and canons there ordained a vicar at Witham; and by some composition between them, the vicar was bound to support Witham chapel: from which time he has been considered as patron to the chapel.

WITHIN the church is a very ancient monument in memory of some of the Neville family; but nothing in the inscription worth reciting.

CRESSING VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

John Cutler, A. M.

PATRON.

Vicar of Witham.

CLEAR YEARLY VALUE.

£ 37 17 4

TENTHS.

£ 0 15 6½

RIVENHALL

IS a parish bounded by Kelvedon on the east; Witham on the south; Fairstead on the west, and

D D D 2

Cressing

Creffing on the north side. It originally was called Raven-hall ; and, like several other places, has been spelt many different ways. The road to and from London, Colchester, Harwich, &c. lies through a part of it. The manors herein are those of Raven-hall, Hook-hall, Durward's-hall, and Bouchier's-hall.

The first-named of these has a good ancient mansion-house and gardens, imparked, near a mile from the church : The manor was formerly in the earl of Bolloin ; but an heiress of that family marrying king Stephen, it passed to the crown ; and since that time has been enjoyed by the families of de Roffa and de Scalariis or Scales : in this last family, (which for upwards of two hundred years were of great consequence in this county,) it continued till Thomas Scales, who had signalized himself in several exploits in France and other places against Jack Cade, in the reign of Henry the Sixth, and had likewise espoused the cause of the house of Lancaster, to which he fell a sacrifice, being murdered in July 1460.---His daughter marrying Anthony de Widville, earl Rivers, (brother to king Edward the Fourth's queen,) in her right he was declared lord Scales, and possessed this manor : but having signalized himself on many occasions, through the artifice of that cruel usurper Richard the Third, was beheaded at Pontefract in June 1483 ; but before his execution had bequeathed this manor to Sir Jeffry Gate : in this family it continued till 1553, when Sir John Gate, (who had been of the privy chamber to king Henry the Eighth, captain of the guard

guard to king Edward the Sixth, and in 1552, was sheriff of this county and of Hertford,) unhappily espousing the cause of lady Jane Gray, was beheaded, when this estate with his other possessions of course came to the crown: we find it afterwards in the families of Tonge, Englefield, White, Wiseman, and Western; in which last family it has continued for several generations, and is at present enjoyed by Charles Western, esq.

THE manor of Hoo-hall, otherwise Martells, or Coggeshalls, has a mansion about a quarter of a mile from the church. It was formerly in the three different families of the three different names by which it is distinguished; from whom it passed to those of Dorewood, Mortimer, Babthorpe, Smyth, Western, and is now in Mrs. Doliffe.

DOREWOOD'S HALL manor has a mansion about a mile and a half from Rivenhall church, on the right-hand side the road leading from Witham to Kelvedon. Who the possessors of this manor were is not clear till about the year 1583, when the Aylett family enjoyed it. However it now belongs to the rev. Mr. Jegon.

BOURCHIER'S has a mansion two miles from the church. From the family after which it was named it went into those of Devereux, Wiseman, and Smyth; and is now in the Western family.

THERE were formerly belonging to the Knights Templars 162 acres of arable, 3 of pasture, and 5 of meadow-

dow land in this parish; and the canons of St. Martin le Grand had also lands here.

Charitable Benefactions.

FOUR pounds per annum were given to the poor of this parish by Sir Ralph Wiseman.

IN the church-yard, on the south side, near the steeple, lieth a stone, under which are said to be buried two sisters, who left a legacy of four pounds a year to the poor: to be laid out in herrings, and distributed every Friday in Lent. Over this stone stood a house, wherein the alms formerly were distributed; but the steeple falling, levelled the house with the ground, and it has not since been rebuilt.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE advowson of this rectory hath ever been appendant to the manor: the living hath one hundred acres of glebe. The parsonage was rebuilt by the present incumbent; but is rather inconvenient it being a full mile from the church:

THE church and chancel are of one pace and both extremely neat: in the tower (at the west end) which is of brick, is only one bell. Upon the tower are battlements, leaded; in the middle of which is placed a wooden steeple, having a spire.

ON the south side the chancel is a very ancient and fine monument of marble, erected to the memory of Ralph Wiseman, esq. formerly owner of the manor

manor of Rivenhall, and patron of the church :
but the inscription contains nothing worth recording.

ON the north side the chancel two or three
marble monuments are erected to the memory of dif-
ferent persons of the Western family ; the best of
them, which is an elegant and expensive one, con-
tains the following inscription :

M. S.

Under this tomb lies interred
the bodies

of William Western, esq. aged 36 years,
who died the 22d of September, 1729;
and of James his son, aged fourteen years;

a youth of the most promising hope,
who survived his father only six months.

An affectionate wife and fond mother,
under the sharpest sense of her double loss,
ordered this monument to be erected.

*Durum est ; sed levis fit patientia,
quicquid corrigere est nefas.*

THE meaning of the last two lines is ; that the
task is indeed difficult ; but patience makes those
burthens light which we cannot shake off.

RIVENHALL RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON,

William Hatfield, M. A.

Charles Western, esq.

1734.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

TENTHS.

£ 25 5 5

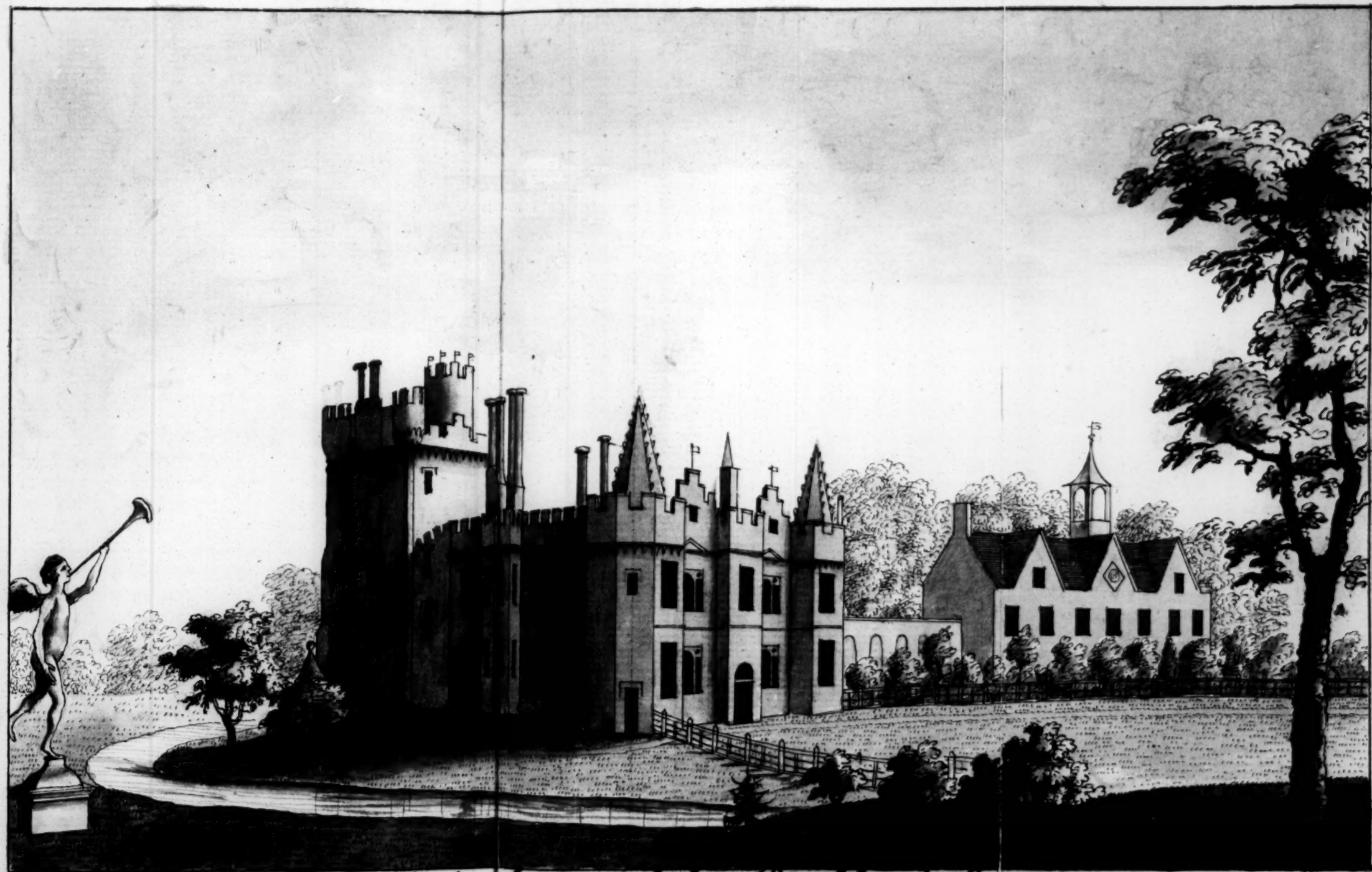
£ 2 2 6 $\frac{1}{2}$

FALKBOURN

F A L K B O U R N

LIES south of Rivenhall : it's situation is low ; and the soil of various kinds. It is named from two Saxon words which signify *folks brook* or *well*, from a spring arising between the church and manor-house, called St. German's well, from it's being formerly dedicated to that Saint. The worship of springs and fountains being practised for some time after the conquest, this well was high in reputation, and frequented much by the superstitious.

THERE is but one manor in this parish ; which, with it's demesnes comprehend the greatest part of it : the mansion house is extremely pleasantly situated within a small park on the right hand side the road leading from Witham to Braintree. It is a stately venerable pile of building, having lofty towers and battlements ; and has received, together with the gardens and grounds around it, very considerable improvements by the present worthy owner. At the time of the conquest this manor was given to Hamo Dapifer, nephew to the conqueror. A niece of Hamo Dapifer having married Robert, a natural son of king Henry the First, this estate was granted him, with the whole honour of Gloucester, and a large inheritance in Normandy : and to this day the estate depends, as to it's tenure, on the honor of Gloucester, being



Falkbourn Hall the Seat of John Bullock Esq^r

being holden of the honor of Clare as of the honor of Gloucester.---William, eldest son of Robert, succeeded to this estate, and sold it to Richard de Lucy, lord chief justice of England; the said William reserving to himself and his heirs, the service of ten knights fees; which service, and consequently the tenure of this lordship, came to the honor of Clare, by the marriage of Amice, daughter and heiress of the aforesaid William earl of Gloucester, with William de Clare, baron of Clare and Tonbridge, and earl of Gloucester.—It continued in the Lucy family some time, and went from them into that of Rivers. We find it afterwards possessed by the families of Sutton, Tabell, Curson, Mandeville, Spice, de Bohun, Montgomery, Fortescue; and about the year 1637, it was purchased by Sir Edward Bullock, of Lofts, in Great Totham, in this county; whose family have enjoyed it ever since: the present owner is John Bullock, esq. one of the burgessees in parliament for Maldon.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church is dedicated to St. German, stands upon an eminence within the park, and is very neat; the church and chancel are of one pace, tiled; there are two bells within a small wooden spire painted white on the outside.

ON the ground in the chancel are two stones, one dated in 1576, the other in 1598, to the memory

of two of the Fortescues, the possessors of this parish immediately preceeding the Bullock family. On the north side the chancel is a monument of black marble to the memory of Sir Edward Bullock, the first gentleman of this family who possessed this parish; dated in 1644. On the south side of the chancel is a very costly and magnificent monument of white marble: on a pedestal is placed a figure of a woman as large as life, supporting a scroll, to inform posterity, that in 1740, John Bullock, of Dives-hall, esq. second son of Edward Bullock, esq. was buried there.—On the north wall of the body of the church is placed a neat marble monument to the memory of the present gentleman's father; and on the south wall, opposite to it, is another good monument with the following inscription:

Near this place lies the body of
the Rev. Dr. Richard Bullock,
son of Edward Bullock, esq.

and Mary, the daughter of Sir Josiah Child, bart,
A gentleman of superior abilities in his profession,
and strictest purity of life and manners.

An honest sincerity of heart heightened all his christian virtues,
and a peculiar tenderness distinguished him
as a friend, a son, a husband, and a father.

He died at Streatham in Surry, Nov. 16, 1754,
aged 53.

And this stone was raised to his memory,
by Whalley Bullock, his widow,

as a testimony of her sincere affection and esteem.

The said Whalley Bullock departed this life July 10, 1767,
and was interred in the same grave.

FALKBOURN

FALKBOURN RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

John Harrison, M. A.

PATRON.

John Bullock, esq.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

£ 6 13 4

TENTHS.

£ 0 13 4

FAIRSTEAD.

ADJOINING to Falkbourn on it's north side, lies Fairstead; a small parish containing about 1200 acres of land: the name of which signifies a *fair place*, being a good and healthy situation. The soil in this parish is of various kinds. Within it are only **two manors**, called Fairstead and Walley.

THE first of these has a good mansion near the church: it was for a considerable time possessed by a family named Ferrers; from whom about the year 1531, it passed into the Cornwall family; and went from them into those of Chauncy, Hobbes, Fienes, Barwell: in 1720 Robert Surmon, deputy cashier of the South Sea Company, contracted with one of the last named family, for the purchase of this estate, which was agreed at 8,400l. of which only 1000l. had been paid in part when the estate was sequestered by parliament for the use of the proprietors of the South Sea stock. Its present owner is general Oglethorpe.

E E E 2

WALLEY,

WALLEY, or WILEIGH-HALL, stands about half a mile from the church ; has a good house almost surrounded by a moat ; and to the house belongs a chapel, called lady Wydelin's chapel. It has been possessed by the families of Scott, Fortescue, Bond, Dequester, and was lately in ——— Ashurst, esq. of Castle Hedingham, and now in his heir.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church is of one pace with the chancel, tiled. Within a tower of stone at the west end, are three bells ; and on the top of the tower is a spire, shingled.

THE rectory hath been in the gift of the bishop of London, ever since the year 1211 : it is a very good one, having seventy-seven acres of glebe ; of which twenty, (called Lady Wydelin's) lie apart from the rest : and pays six shillings and eight pence yearly to Hasely.

IN the church is no monument or inscription worthy notice.

FAIRSTEAD RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

George Watkins, A. M.

PATRON.

Bishop of London,

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

£ 6 13 4

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 0 12 4

WHITE

WHITE NOTLEY

ADJOINS Fairstead on its north side: it takes its name from two Saxon words which signify *Nut Pasture*. The situation is healthy, and the soil of various kinds: a few hops are grown here.

THE manor of White Notley was possessed by a family named Engaine for many generations till the year 1399, when it went to that of Pakenham; and from thence passed into those of Aylesbury, Cheney, Vaux, Wright; in which last family it continues, being at present the property of John Wright, esq. of Kelvedon-Hatch.

SLAMONDSEY or SLAMSEY is a manor and hamlet belonging to this parish, situate on the left hand side the road leading from Little Waltham to Braintree, and separated from the rest of this parish by part of Great Lees and Black Notley. It is now divided into three farms, called Great and Little Slamondsey, and a farm between them. ----- Being a part of the endowment of Lees priory, at the general suppression it was granted to Richard lord Rich: his son sold it to John Forster, and he alienated it to Richard Everard; and soon after it was purchased by Robert earl of Warwick. Upon dismembring his estate, this fell to the earl of Scarfdale, who sold Great and Little Slamsey's to Herman Olmius, esq. from whom

whom they have descended to the present right hon. lord Waltham.

THE farm mentioned to be between them is called Cut-hedge, and is at present the property of — Tatam, esq.

Charitable Benefactions.

Two alms-houses, with two acres of land on the road-side in this parish, were given to the poor by major Whitebread, of Badow: since then the parishioners have erected an house for one dweller.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church is built of stone, hath two ayssles, which are not very neat: in a spire, at the west end, are three bells.

In the year 1103, Roger Bigod, having founded a monastery at Thetford in Norfolk for cluniac Monks, among other things, endowed it with the tythes of this parish. In 1273, a vicarage was ordained here, and endowed; the bishop of London reserving to himself and successors the nomination of a vicar; which right hath continued in that see ever since. — At the suppression the impropriate tythes and advowson of the vicarage were granted to Thomas duke of Norfolk; who has been succeeded therein by Giles Kielway; — Harvy, the Smiths of Cressing, the Daviels; and is now the joint property of the rev. Mr. Dannel, one Mr. Redges, and I think another person.

As

As for monuments and inscriptions, there is not one worth taking notice of.

WHITE NOTLEY RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRONESS.

William Cordall, A. M.

Elizabeth Davies, but

1725.

with the approbation of
the bishop of London.*

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

TENTHS.

£ 10 0 0

£ 1 0 0

BLACK NOTLEY.

IS a parish pleasantly situated upon a hill, at the extremity of the nothern part of this hundred. In the earliest times the two Notleys made but one village or township; but at the time it became possessed by Jeffry de Mandeville earl of Essex, and Roger Bigod; earl of Norfolk, it is suggested these two great men founded the churches of White and Black Notley each upon their own lands, for the conveniency of

* The reader is to understand from this, that Elizabeth Davies, the patroness of this living, does, or may if she pleases, present a person to the bishop for institution; but at the same time the bishop has it in his option to refuse institution to the person proposed by the patron; so that the bishop himself is in fact the patron of the living.

their respective tenants. The soil is various, but very fruitful. A few hops are grown here.

THE manor of Black Notley, otherwise Gobions, has a mansion near the church. The different owners of this estate appear to have been the Mandeville family about the year 1166; that of Legat, sheriff of this county in 1401; who were succeeded by those of Spice, Fortescue, Bradbury, Leveson, Keightly, Thorowgood, Pate, Afty; and now belongs to Sir Marmaduke Afty Wyville, bart.

TO the above manor that of Statintoh's is now annexed. The farm-house is on the right hand side of the road leading from Braintree to Falkbourn.

BESIDES those above recited, there are in this parish several other considerable estates, particularly Plumtrees, belonging to Milbourne Carter, esq. and Dagneys, to Samuel Ruggles, esq. and in this parish Milbourne Carter, esq. mentioned as lord of the manor of Bradwell, has a convenient mansion called the Buck.

THE learned William Bedell, bishop of Kilmore in Ireland, was born in this parish in 1570: his life being wrote by Gilbert Burnet, D. D. I refer the reader to that work for any further particulars.

THIS parish gave birth to that great christian philosopher, John Ray, A. M. whose father was a blacksmith in this parish, but perceiving in his son a vast genius, put him to school at Braintree, where making a rapid progress in learning, he was sent to Cambridge, and admitted into Catherine-hall; but afterwards

afterwards removed to Trinity College. His weakness of body not permitting him to follow the ministry for which he was intended, he bent the chief of his study to botany, birds, and insects; in his writings upon which he far exceeded all who had ever wrote before him. Over his grave a monument was set up in the church-yard of this parish; which Dr. Compton, bishop of London, removed into the church: since then it has been removed back again into the church-yard.

Charitable Benefaction.

AN estate, situate in Bocking, called Hull-bush, of 13l. a year, was left by Mr. Coker: eight pounds of which are to be distributed to eight poor widows, every Lady-day; and the other five pounds expended in instructing the children of the poor of this parish; which charity Mrs. Dunbar of Kelvedon, has now the disposal of.

TEN pounds a year for ever were left to the poor hereof, by Mrs. Kitchen, December 16, 1722, as appears by an inscription on her monument.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church and chancel are of one pace, tiled; in a wooden turret at the west end are two bells; on the top of the turret stands a small spire, shingled.

THE church with lands and tythes, at the general suppression, being part of the possessions of the priory

of the Holy Trinity in London, king Henry the Eighth granted them to John Cock and his heirs, from whom they came to the Leveson family; and since that time have passed with the manor.

THE parsonage is a very good house, having been new-built by a late incumbent, Geoffry Barton, L. L. D.

WITHIN the church are only two monuments; one erected to the memory of Mr. William Rayment, attorney; the other to a former rector of this parish; the inscriptions on neither are worth recording. But we are made ample amends for the little entertainment the church affords, in our pursuits after curious and amusing inscriptions, by one in the church-yard, which, with a translation in verse, taken from *Byography Britannica*, we here subjoin: it is on a square pedestal monument, surrounded with an iron ballustrade, erected to the memory of the learned and ingenious Mr. Ray, mentioned above, who was not only an honor and an ornament to this his native county, but to the whole nation: it is expressed in the following elegant Latin lines:

Eruditissimi viri JOHANNIS RAY, A. M.

quicquid mortale fuit

Hoc in angusto tumulo reconditum est;

at scripta,

non una continet regio :

Et fama undiquaq; celeberrima

vetat mori.

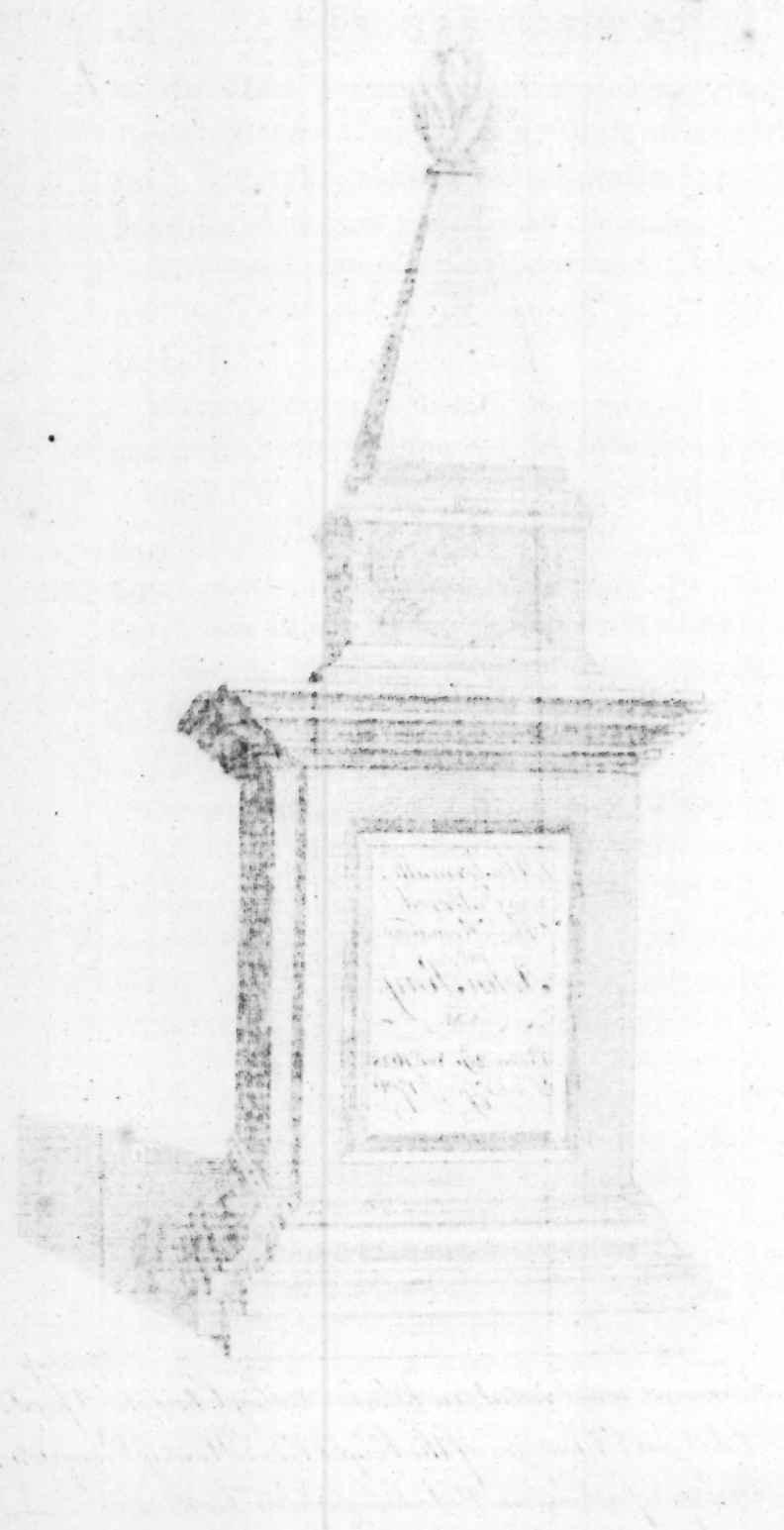
Collegii SS. Trinitatis Cantab, fuit olim sonius;

Nec non societatis regie apud Londinensis sodalis,

Egregium



This Monument was Erected in Black Notley Church Yard, at the Sole Cost & Charge of the Right Rev. dⁿ Henry Compton, Lord Bishop of London. Vide Biographia Britannica.



Egregium utriusque ornamentum.

In omni scientiarum genere,

Tam divinarum quàm humanarum,

Versatissimus.

Et sicut alter Solomon cui forsan unico secundus

A cedro ad hyssopum

Ab animalium maximis ad minima usque insect,

exquisitam nactus est notitiam.

Nec de plantis solum, qua patet terræ facies.

Accuratissime differuit;

Sed est intima ipsius viscera sagacissime rematus.

Quicquid notatu dignum in universa naturâ

descripsit;

Apud exteras gentes agens

Quæ aliorum oculos fugerant diligenter exploravit

Multaq; scitu dignissima primus in lucem protulit

Quod, superest, ea morum simplicitate præditus,

Ut fuerit absq; invidia doctus

sublimis ingenii,

Et quod raro accidit, demissi simul animi & modesti

Nôn sanguine et genere insignis,

Sed (quod majus)

Propria virtute illustris;

De opibus titulisq; obtinendis

Parum sollicitus:

Hæc potius mereri voluit, quam adipisci:

Dum (sub privato lare, sua sorte contentus,

(Fortuna laudari dignus) consenuit.

In rebus aliis sibi modum facile imposuit;

In studiis nullum.

Quid plura,

Hæc omnibus

Pietatem minime fucatam adjunxit.

Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ

(id quod supremo habitu confirmavit)

Totus est ex animo addictus.

*Sic bene latuit, bene vixit vir beatus,
quem præsens ætas colit, posterâ mirabitur.*

On the north side :

T. Ray, { Nat. 29 Nov. 1628,
Ob. 17 Jan. 1705—6.

IN English ;

Hid in this narrow tomb, this marble span,
Lies all that Death could snatch from this great man ;
His body moulders in it's native clay,
While o'er wide worlds his works their beams display
As bright and everlasting as the day.
To those just Fame ascribe immortal breath,
And in his writings he out-lives his death.
Of every science every part he knew,
Read in all arts, divine and human too ;
Like Solomon (and Solomon alone
We as a greater king of knowledge own)
Our modern sage dark nature's secrets read,
From the tall cedar to the hyssop's bed ;
From the unwieldiest beast of land or deep,
To the least insect that has power to creep ;
Nor did his artful labours only show
Those plants which on the earth's wide surface grow,
But piercing e'en her darkest entrails through,
All that was wise, all that was great he knew,
And nature's inmost gloom made clear to common view.
From foreign shores his learning brought supplies,
Exposing treasures hid from others eyes,
Loading his single mind to make his country wise.
But what's yet more, he was so meekly great,
That envy unrepining saw his state ;
For, rare accomplishment ! his humble mind,
Possess'd a jewel which it could not find.

A great

W I T H A M H U N D R E D.

400

A great descent lent nothing to his fame,
 Virtue, not birth, distinguish'd his high name :
 Titles and wealth he never strove to gain ;
 Those he would rather merit than obtain.
 His private life in humble shades he spent ;
 Worthy a palace, with a cell content.
 Unwearied he would knowledge still pursue,
 The only thing in which no mean he knew.
 What more did add to these bright gifts, we find
 A pure untainted piety of mind.
 England's blest church engross'd his zealous care,
 A truth, his dying accents did declare.
 Thus lost he in retirement his great breath ;
 Thus dy'd he living, who thus lives in death.
 Thus has heav'n call'd his age's glory home,
 And the bright wonder of the age to come.

J. Ray, { was born 29 Nov. 1628,
 { dyed 17 Jan. 1706,

BLACK NOTLEY RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

Christopher Wyville, L. L. B.
 1763.

PATRON.

Sir Marmaduke Wy-
 ville, bart.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

£. 15 0 0

YEARLY TENTHS.

£. 1 10 0

HINCK-

HINCKFORD HUNDRED.

FROM Black-Notley, in Witham Hundred, we enter Braintree in Hinkford Hundred; which last is bounded on the east by that of Lexdon; on the north and north-east by the river Stour; on the west by the hundreds of Dunmow and Freshwell; and on the south by those of Witham and Chelmsford. — It is by far the largest hundred in this county; for which reason it has three constables, and the others have but two: in extent from south-west to north-east it measures upwards of eighteen miles; and from east to west almost thirteen. It is reckoned an eighth part of this county. The king is seized in fee of the liberty of this hundred; the bailywick of which hath generally been granted by patent for thirty-one years. The ecclesiastical jurisdiction of it is in the archdeaconry of Middlesex. It contains forty-seven parishes; which I intend to treat of in the order following.



A Map of
Hinckford Hundred
in Essex,
Humbly Dedicated to
Peter Muilman, Esq.
of
GREAT YELDHAM.

Scale of Miles.
4 3 2 1 0

HINCKFORD HUNDRED. 411

Braintree,	Middleton,
Bocking,	Bulmer,
Pantfield,	Ballington,
Rayne,	Brunden,
Felstead,	Borley,
Stebbing,	Lyfton,
Great Saling,	Pantlow,
Shalford,	Foxhearth,
Finchingfield,	Beauchamp St. Paul's,
Weathersfield,	Beauchamp Oten,
Gosfield,	Beauchamp Walter,
Strifead,	Gestingthorpe,
Halfstead,	Little Yeldham,
Pebmarsh,	Ovington,
Alphamstone,	Ashen,
Lemarth,	Redgewell,
Little Maplestead,	Tilbury,
Great Maplestead,	Great Yeldham,
Sible Hedingham,	Topes field,
Castle Hedingham,	Stambourn,
Wickham St. Paul's,	Bumpstead-Steeple,
Twinstead,	Birdbrook, and
Great Henney,	Sturmer.
Little Henney,	

BRAINTREE.

THE name of this place in ancient records is variously written ; as Blanketre, Branchetrew, Branketre, Brantree, Braintree, &c. At the time of the

the general survey it was distinguished by the names of Raines and Branchetrew; the first of which is made up of the Saxon word Rey, which signifies *a river*; the latter is compounded of the Old English word bank, or bunk, which signifies *a rising ground*, and the word tre, *a town*; that is *a town upon an hill*; which derivations agree well with its situation; it being bounded on each side by a river, as well as situated upon a rising ground. In Domesday-book, all that tract of ground of which this parish and that now called Raines do consist, were entered under the name Raines; but about the reign of Henry the Third this town was made a distinct parish, and called Great Raine to distinguish it from another; which from that time took the name of Little Raine and Branktree was then stiled hamlettum de Raines, till in process of time growing great, and a market being kept there, the name of the whole insensibly stole into Braintree. An irregular parcel of ground, containing about forty acres, situate in the parish of Stinstead, better than four miles distant from the town, called Rayne-hatch, pays tythes to this parish, which is a corroborating circumstance of its being formerly called Great Raine, to distinguish it from Little Raine: besides which, one Robert de Welles, lord of the manor of Welles, now Raine-hall, founded the church; and with one Harvey de Raines, endowed it with house and glebe. — It is to be observed, the old site of the town was once in a place distant from the present situation about a mile of

to the north-east and there is still remaining a considerable part of an old chapel, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, which was a kind of chapel of ease to this parish of Braintree, otherwise Great Raine: there being only one parish in this county of the name of Raine, unless this was so, it is not unlikely but this tradition is true.

THIS town is situate about forty miles from London; fourteen from Maldon, fifteen from Colchester, eleven from Chelmsford; from Dunmow eight and a half; from Halstead seven; Coggeshall six, and from Witham near eight. It is a great thoroughfare from London into Suffolk and Norfolk, and the Norwich, Bury, and Sudbury stage-coaches pass daily through it. The principal manufacture is long baize, chiefly exported for Spain and Portugal, and which employs many hands. Here is a market every Wednesday, well supplied with all kinds of necessaries, and at which vast quantities of corn, malt, hops, &c. are sold by sample. The buildings are mostly old and of timber; but somewhat improved of late by a few new ones of brick and plaister. The principal street being very narrow in one part, has occasioned much complaint from the obstruction carriages often meet with in their passage through it, to the great inconveniency of travellers as well of as the inhabitants. Of late, a proposal has been made to take down a middle row of old houses, by which a commodious wide street would be formed; but this useful plan is laid aside for the pre-

sent, for want of necessary assistance. Two fairs are held here annually; one on the second of October, which holds three days; and the other on the eight of May, which lasts the same time; the principal traffic at which is live cattle, hops, butter and cheese. Formerly there was but one, which lasted six days; but Herman Olmius, esq. at the time of his being lord of the manor in the reign of queen Ann, obtained a patent for the one in May, and at the same time took off three days from that held in October.

At the corner of New-street in this town is a very large stone, or stones congealed, of an uncommon size; measuring in circumference four yards and a half; in depth, or thickness, half an ell; in width, from side to side, one yard and a half. How or by what means it became placed there we cannot learn.

In Braintree is only one dissenter's Meeting-house, which is frequented by the Anabaptists.

THE parish of Braintree is not very large; its soil is various; a few hops are grown in it: the river Stour waters this parish, over which are three brick bridges; one in the road to Witham; another in the road to Chelmsford; and a third in that to Dunmow; all of which are supported at the expence of this parish. Upon this river, (which is the boundary of Witham and Hinckford hundreds) are two mills, each of them answers the purpose of fulling and grinding of corn. The manors contained herein are three, viz.

El.hops

BISHOPS manor, which is by far the largest; and to which is annexed the advowson of the vicarage. The principal house of this lordship was not only the manor house, but a palace for the residence of the bishops of London at the time they came to visit this part of the diocese; but that house has long since fell to the ground from the ruinous situation it was left in for several years. It stood on the side of a hill, at the foot of which lies Braintree-mill, near where the parsonage of Braintree now stands.--- This manor for many generations was in the bishops of London, till Nicholas Ridley, at the time of his enjoying that see, passed it to king Edward the Sixth and his successors for ever: but that king granted it, with the advowson of the vicarage of Coggeshall, to Robert lord Rich; in whose family it continued till the death of Charles earl of Warwick, in 1673, when it fell to the share of his sister lady Frances, wife of Nicholas, son and heir to Francis Leak, lord Deincourt, and earl of Scarisdale; of one of his posterity Herman Olmius, esq. purchased it; in his family it has continued ever since; and is at present enjoyed by lady Dowager Waltham.

THE manor of Naylinghurst has a house about a mile and a half north from the church, which formerly was surrounded by a moat. It took it's name from an ancient owner. About the year 1636 it was held by Henry Hafelfoot, who was succeeded therein by a family named Bridges; from whom it went to Rowland Holt, esq. whose successor was Sir William

Smith, of Old Warden in Bedfordshire, knt. (some-time since high-sheriff for that county) the present possessor.

THE manor of Marks has a mansion house about a mile and a half north-east from the church. About the year 1400 this manor was possessed by a family named Bouchier; from which noble family it came by marriage to Sir William Parr, afterwards created earl of Essex and marquis of Northampton, in right of his wife; but upon his espousing the cause of lady Jane Grey, he was beheaded, and his estates consequently fell to the crown: upon which queen Mary gave this manor to Sir Robert Rochester, comptroller of her household; and at his decease he left to the priory of Shene in Surry; and upon the suppression of this society at the general dissolution, the parliament presented this manor to queen Elizabeth, and she restored it again to the marquis of Northampton. At the death of the marquis and his lady this manor reverted again to the queen, who then granted it to Walter Devereux viscount Hereford, whom she likewise created earl of Essex; of him it was purchased by Ralph Wiseman, of Rivenhall, esq. some of whose successors sold it to Thomas Western, esq. It now belongs to — Ruggles, a minor.

SANDPIT-LEET belongs to the dutchy of Lancaster as a part of the honor of Clare.

IT is remarkable, that in this parish there hath been time immemorial, a *select vestry* for the business of the parish; consisting of twenty-four in number.

The

The origin of this custom cannot be traced. In an ancient ledger of this parish, in 1574, they are called the twenty-four *headboroughs*; and they are stiled *governors of the town*, and *town magistrates* in an award made the third of December, 1584, by Edward Stanhope, L. L. D. and others, appointed by the queen's high commissioners for causes ecclesiastical, to determine a dispute then depending between Richard Gooday, gent. and Ann his wife, and Joseph Mann, and Eleanor his wife, about a pew in this church. — However this custom was broken in upon about the year 1611, and the following year restored again by Dr. John King, bishop of London.

Charitable Benefactions.

In the year 1552, John Payne gave a tenement in this town, called Coppid-hall, for the weekly relief of the poor.

In 1565 John Surinam, servant to Mr. John Gooday, senior, patron of the living, gave, by will, to his said master, one hundred pounds, upon condition he built four alms-houses for the poor of this parish; which trust was accordingly performed by his said master. And for the convenience of the poor inhabiting these alms-houses, Robert lord Rich, then lord of the manor of this town, gave a piece of waste-ground; which about the year 1630 was much enlarged by the generous grant of Robert earl of Warwick; upon which the parish erected that year an house there, called the Hospital, for the entertain-
ment

ment of the poor. The above buildings were settled in divers trustees, who with the church-wardens and overseers of the poor, or the greatest part of them, were to dispose thereof at their discretion.

IN 1579 Alice Grigle gave about forty acres of arable, and one of meadow-land, the profits of which to be disposed of yearly, at the discretion of the church-wardens for the time being, to the poor inhabitants of this parish.

IN 1626 John Lawrence gave an orchard to the poor of this parish : it was formerly part of the vicarage orchard ; but since has been exchanged for a field of greater value.

HENRY SMITH, esq. who from his travelling with a dog was called Dog Smith, left 2800l. to purchase an estate in this county, to be distributed in such proportions as he thought fit to the poor of this parish, Henham, Terling, Tolleshunt-Darcy, and Dover court ; the proportion whereof which this town first received was six pounds per annum : but as the estate purchased with this money lies in Tolleshunt-Darcy, I shall reserve the particulars till I come to give an account of that parish. He is said to have been a beggar ; but if so, he was a rich one, and very compassionate to the poor, whom he relieved in a bountiful manner ; for besides what he left as above mentioned, his donation in Surry is not less extensive.

IN the year 1630, Thomas Trotter, merchant, of London, but a native of this place, settled a house, barn, four acres of arable land, then of the yearly value

value of five pounds, ten shillings, in divers trustees, to be disposed of as follows : towards the reparation of the church 10s. to the vicar of Braintree 6s. 8d. to the church-wardens 5s. to the overseers of the poor 5s. to the sexton 3s. 4d. and the remaining four pounds to twenty aged poor, by two equal payments, 2s. each on the eighteenth of November, and the like sum on the twenty-fourth of February, or within fourteen days either before or after. He likewise made provision, that if there should be any increase of rent, it should be laid out in repairing the church ; but if any decrease, a proportionate deduction should be made from every person before-mentioned who receive from this charity. In 1651, the tenement on the premises was burnt down, which reduced this charity to four pounds per annum.

IN 1631, Thomas Hobbes, of Gray's Inn, esq. gave a farm in Braintree, called Broom's, as followeth : to the vicar of Braintree six pounds per annum ; for a catechising lecture in Catherine-hall, Cambridge, five pounds per annum ; and the remainder to two or three poor scholars, students either in Catharine-hall or Emanuel-college, Cambridge.

AN house and a little field of the value of forty shillings per annum, was given by Mr. Mark Mott, to be distributed to the poor of this parish on St. Andrew's day yearly, in shirts and smocks of one shilling per yard. In the year 1638 his son Adiran gave to the minister, and several other inhabitants of the parish in vestry assembled, one hundred pounds in trust for the
poor,

poor, desiring it might be laid out in land as soon as conveniently it could, and in the mean time to be improved to the best advantage ; the profits of which he desired also might be annually distributed on the same day as the benefaction of his father was. But this charity had not it's intended effect, a great part of the money being lost by the failure of the persons to whom it was lent.

IN 1740 Sir Stephen White settled six pounds thirteen shillings and four-pence yearly out of a farm lying in White and Black Notley, to be distributed upon All Saints day yearly, to six poor women of Braintree, frequenters of the established church, in manner following: to each a gown ready-made, value fourteen shillings, and four two-penny loaves of wheaten-bread upon the first Sunday in every month in the year, after sermon in the afternoon ; and to the upper church-warden 1s. 4d.

IN 1691 Isaac Skinner, of Wivenhoe, in this county, mariner, but a native of this place, left the reversion of his house in Wivenhoe aforesaid, to the church-wardens and overseers of the poor there, upon condition that they should pay yearly to the church-wardens of Braintree parish four pounds, for the use of the poor of that parish.

IN 1698 Henry Summers, of London, merchant, left to divers trustees a rent-charge of seven pounds ten shillings per annum out of his manor of Gains, in Huntingdonshire, to be disposed of as followeth ; five pounds in bread to the poor of this parish, on the fourth

fourth day of February, being the day of his baptism, yearly for ever ; and the remaining fifty shillings to the minister and church-wardens thereof, to be spent by them and the trustees in a convenient dinner, or otherwise as they shall think fit.

IN 1702, James Coker, late of Black Notley, but who had lived in this parish many years, and carried on the business of a grocer, &c. gave a farm at Stoke by Neyland, in Suffolk, of about ten pounds per annum, for teaching ten poor children of this parish English and Latin in the charity-school.

IN 1707, John Aylet, gave the reverfional moiety of a house and land in Bocking, to the poor of this parish.

BESIDES which benefactions there are others of less account.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTONS.

The church, dedicated to St. Michael, is a flint-stone building, in good repair : both church and chancel have a north and south ayse, all leaded, except the chancel, which is tyled. At the west end is a strong tower, containing six bells, and a clock, above which is a lofty spire, shingled. This is not the church that did anciently belong to the parish, for that was founded before the conquest, and stood at half a mile's distance from the town, near the bishop's palace, and was removed about the year 1349-50, not only on account of it's great decay, but for

the ease of the inhabitants of this town, which took it's rise from the convenience of it's situation, for the reception of pilgrims, &c. travelling out of the south to St. Edmund's-bury, in Suffolk, and to our Lady of Walsingham, in Norfolk; from which circumstance, and that of some of the clothiers (who were driven out of the Netherlands by the duke of Alva's cruelty) settling themselves in some of the forsaken inns here, it owes it's existence as a town.

SINCE the time of the first building of this church it has received very considerable additions: in 1522 the new porch, and in 1532 the south ayse were added to it; and the roof of the church, which before was shingled with wood, was now taken down, raised a story higher, and covered with lead: towards the charge of this building, besides large contributions from the inhabitants, three plays were acted herein; the first of which was St. Swithin, in 1523; the second of St. Andrew, in 1525; the third of Placy Dacey, or St. Ewstacy, in 1534. These performances tended not only to gratify the eye and ear, but great preparations were likewise made for satisfying the belly; the accounts for which (Mr. Morant observes,) the church-wardens of those times were very exact in. After the reformation, the church-wardens not only lent the players garments, but at last sold them for fifty shillings, and the play books for twenty.

FORMERLY here were a rectory and vicarage; the first a sinecure in the collation of the bishop of London; the latter in the gift of the rector.—The

patro-

patronage of the church, about the year 1416, was in the prior and convent of the monastery called the Charter-house, and afterwards appropriated to them by Richard Clifford, bishop of London, with a reservation of 6s. 8d. per annum, payable to the bishop of London for the time being; which is paid to this day: upon which, the said prior and convent became patrons to the vicarage, and so it continued when it came to the crown at the general suppression, when king Henry the Eighth granted the rectory and advowson of the vicarage to James Michell, and his heirs; his son alienated them to John Gooday; who was succeeded therein by Richard lord Rich; and he having founded a free-school and alms-house at Felstead, gave something to each of them out of this rectory. — The earl of Nottingham succeeded to this rectory upon the earl of Warwick's decease, and it was, till lately held by lease for life, by the vicars of Braintree, they paying annually to the free-school and alms-house at Felstead 30l. 1s. 8d. in money, and sixteen quarters of wheat and the same in malt. The said earl settled it upon Mr. George Dell, rector of Foulness, to augment his living.

THE advowson of the vicarage is annexed to the manor, (as I have before observed). The vicarage was augmented in 1725, by the Reverend Stephen Newcomen, vicar at that time, with 200l. and an addition of 100l. more was also made from Queen Ann's bounty.

In a large piece of brick-work, built up against the wall of the chancel, is fixed a brass plate with the following inscription :

THIS grate was ordered to be set up by the last will and testament of Samuel Collins, late doctor of physick, eldest son to Mr. Samuel Collins, hereunder buried, who served about nine years as principal physician to the great Czar, emperor of Russia, and after his return from thence, taking a journey into France, died at Paris, Oct. 26, 1670, being the 51st year of his age.

Mors requies peregrinantibus.

BEFORE the brick-work is an altar-tomb, inclosed in a grate, and on the south side of it an inscription to inform posterity, that Mr. Samuel Collins, (father to the above-named gentleman,) who was many years minister of this church, died May 2, 1667, and was buried here.

BRAINTREE VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

John Morgan, B. D.
1738.

Lady Dowager Waltham.

CLEAR YEARLY VALUE.

TENTHS.

£ 48 0 0

£ 1 14 4

BOCKING

B O C K I N G

IS a fine parish, separated from Braintree only by a large Roman road, leading from Colchester to Bishops-Stortford. It consists chiefly of one street, in which the baize-trade is carried on to a very considerable amount, the greatest part of that branch having removed from Braintree, and settled here. In this village, which is one of the most considerable in the whole county, are some very good houses: on the right-hand side the road, leading from Bocking-street, is an exceeding large and good dissenting Meeting-house; and on the right-hand, going to Raine, is one belonging to the quakers. A part of this parish extends into what appears to be the heart of the town of Braintree. It is watered by a river named the Pant, (from which Pantfield derives its name) but lower down the stream it is called Black-water: upon this river are two good wooden-bridges, and three mills; each of which mills serve the purpose of fulling as well as of grinding of corn. The situation of the parish in general is low; the soil a mixed one; and a few hops are grown here.

A WHOLE urn of old coins, mostly Vespasian's, was some time since found in the grounds belonging to High Garret, in this parish; but through the carelessness and ignorance of the workmen, many of them

them were lost before their value became known : however, what few were left are now in the hands of Mr. Jonathan Reeves, proprietor of that estate. A curious copper coin of Antoninous was found some time ago in Braintree.

IN the year 1006 Æthelric and Lefwine, two noble Saxons, gave the manor of Bocking-hall to the priory of Canterbury ; where it continued till the general suppression ; when king Henry the Eighth granted it in 1540 to Roger Wentworth, gent. for the sum of 875l. 11s. 3d. The Wentworth family were succeeded herein by that of Barker ; one of which family mortgaged it to Prisca Cobourn, widow of Stratford-le-Bow, brewer : the inheritance of which premises being decreed to her by the high court of chancery, at her death she bequeathed the manor and capital messuage of Bocking-hall, and all her estates here (one only excepted,) to the corporation and governors for the relief of poor widows and children of the clergy of the church of England, to be applied in that charity ; but with this proviso ; that no one clergyman's widow be allowed more than five pounds in any one year : nor that more than ten pounds be given at the placing out of any one child. These were let at that time for 341l. a year. The one farm, excepted as above, she bequeathed to the minister of Bow.

From this noble manor of Bocking-hall, several subordinate ones arose : the most considerable of which is

Doreward's-

DOREWARD'S-HALL, the mansion of which is within half a mile south-east of the church. It is named from an ancient owner; whose family was succeeded herein by those of Thursby, Eden, Honeywood; in which family it continues, being at present enjoyed by general Honeywood; as likewise are the manors of Bradfords and Harries, being united to Doreward's-hall.

THE manor of Fryers hath a mansion on the right hand side the road leading from this parish to Braintree. There belongs to this manor a court-baron, and divers quit-rents. The different possessors of this manor were the families of Frere, Brokeman, Windle, Arthur, Maysent*; and it now belongs to Mr. Henry Ray, bay-maker, who occupies it

THE manor of Fennes lies on the confines of Gosfield parish, and the mansion-house stands on the right-hand side of the road leading from that parish to Braintree. In 1582 we find this manor possessed by the Bendlow family; who were succeeded therein by that of Wright, from which family it passed to Jeremiah Reeve, gent. and is now in Richard Baines gent. the occupier.

THE manor of Boones has a mansion standing east of the church, distant about a mile and a half. It has been possessed by the families of Wentworth, Goodin, Fitch, and now belongs to Mr. Joseph Reeve, gent.

* Robert Maysent, of this family, who lived at Lions in this parish, was an eminent clothier, and made the first long bay that was made in England.

BOCKING-PARK, and the farm called the Lodge, belong to the earl of Essex.

A CAPITAL messuage called Lions is situate about a mile south from Boones, and about a mile south-east of the church. It belongs now to lady Dawes.

A CAPITAL messuage called High Garret, lies on the west-side of the great road leading to Gosfield, and is now in chancery between brothers.

THE corporation of the clergy have besides that mentioned above, an estate called Bovington-hall, in this parish, situate about a mile north-west from the church, in the road to Weathersfield.

Charitable Benefactions.

IN 1438, John Dorewood, of this parish, esq. founded an hospital at the corner of church lane, to be an habitation for seven poor people; one of which was to have the government of the said house for ever. He endowed it with the manor of Tendring, and 10l. yearly rent out of his estates in this county.

AN alms-house for eight dwellers.

IN 1571, William Bendlowes, esq. gave out of an estate in Great Bardfield for ever, three pounds yearly rent, to be distributed to the alms-house people there above forty years of age, not having any child or children with them: or otherwise, to honest people, married or unmarried, not being vagrants, or idle persons; which money is to be distribute within fourteen days after the trustees receive the same; and in case the alms-houses are out of repair, twenty shillings
of

of the said benefaction are to go towards the repairing of them: he bequeathed also a further rent of 2l. 13s. 4d. for the purposes aforementioned, to be paid out of Rookwood's, in this parish.

IN 1573 William Marten of Halstead, gave a messuage with appurtenances, in Castle Hedingham, to the poor of this parish, to raise the yearly sum of four pounds, which he desired might be paid them in Bocking church-porch on Michaelmas and Lady-day for ever, in equal portions.

IN 1601 Mrs. Joanna Smith bequeathed 400l. for the purchase of lands of forty marks yearly value; which money was to be bestowed in the relief of the poor of Coggeshall and Bocking. The twenty marks belonging to this parish are distributed to the poor at five shillings in bread every Sunday; and the distributors have six shillings and eight pence yearly for their pains. Out of this annuity was raised the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds; which being joined to thirty, bequeathed by Sir Stephen White, kn^t. to the poor of Bocking, in 1680, the whole was laid out in the purchase of four close of land, near King's Corner in Bocking, for the yearly use of the poor; the rents and profits of which are distributed at the will of the rector and feoffees, between Michaelmas and November 10, annually.

FORTY pounds were given to the poor of this parish by John Stocker Jekyll, esq. which, with other monies, being laid out in the purchase of a workhouse the overseers pay forty shillings annually to the mini-

ster and church wardens for the same, which forty shillings is distributed among the poor.

IN 1628 Mr. Skinner gave two crofts, called Wentlands, in Bocking, now let at three pounds per annum, the profits of which to be laid out yearly in linen and woollen, and distributed amongst ten of the poor of this parish on St. Stephen's day.

IN 1630 Mr. Thomas Trotter, merchant of London, but a native of this place, gave an annuity of three pounds six shillings and eight pence out of a house at Braintree; to be disposed of fourteen days before or after St. Thomas's day, among thirty poor men of this parish, who must be either weavers, combers, or fullers.

MR. GARRARD gave a messuage and a field belonging to it of two acres, situate in Black Notley, and producing about three pounds per annum, to be paid at Michaelmas and Lady day, and given to the poor.

FIFTY pounds were given to this parish by Mr. George Elkin, to purchase either house or land, the yearly rent of which to be distributed among the poor of Bocking, at the discretion of the church-wardens, upon All Saints Day.

IN 1707 Mr. John Aylett, of this parish, gave the reversional moiety of a house and land in Bocking, at the yearly value of seven pounds, to the poor of Braintree and of this parish for ever.

IN 1721, Mr. John Mathums of Braintree, bricklayer, gave some messuages in Braintree to certain trustees,

trustees, to pay the sum of twenty-one pounds yearly for ever, to twenty poor people in Bocking, taking no collection; to be distributed at the discretion of the said trustees and their survivors.

IN 1723, John Moyse, gent. of this parish, left an annuity of forty shillings yearly for ever, for the repairing of his tomb and vault, and the overplus to be distributed to the poor for ever: the dean and church-wardens for the time being, have the direction of this charity.

DR. JOHN GAUDEN, rector of Bocking, (afterwards bishop of Worcester) gave four hundred pounds to purchase an endowment for a charity school: a part of this sum was laid out in the purchase of a messuage in church lane for a dwelling for a school-master, and for him to teach in: the residue was expended in the purchase of a farm and lands, called Longlands, in Much-Lees; sixteen pounds out of the profits of which estate to be assigned to the school-master for his salary, and the remainder to be paid to the dean of Bocking for the time being, as a stock for the necessary repairing and improving the premises. The dean of Bocking, rector of Stisted, and vicar of Braintree, for the time being, are the sole managers of this charity, and have the power of appointing master and scholars, and of excluding them. The school is for teaching thirty poor boys, (born and living in this parish) to read and write; of which each must be of the age of seven at least at the time of his admission; to conti-

nue there for three years ; and none to remain after the age of twelve years.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is a spacious noble building, situate upon a considerable eminence, about a mile north west from Bradford-street : It has a north and south ayse. At the west end is a tower having a ring of six bells, besides a small one ; both church and tower are built of flint stone, covered with terras ; and the whole is leaded. The inside is not at all comparable to the outside, being in a very shabby condition.

THE parsonage is an exceeding good house, commanding a delightful prospect.

BOCKING is a deanery as well as rectory, and is the head of the following peculiars in Essex and Suffolk, belonging to the archbishop; viz. Stisted, Lachingdon, and South Church, in Essex, together with their appendants, Little Coggeshall ; Runsell, a hamlet in Danbury ; Callow-green, a hamlet in Purleigh ; and Milton in Prittlewell : the peculiars in Suffolk are Hadley, Monks-Ileigh, and Molton : all which are exempt from the authority of the respective diocesans, consequently of their subordinate officers ; and subject only to the jurisdiction of the archbishop of Canterbury, or his commissary, who is the dean of Bocking.

IN Bocking church were formerly three altars ; namely those of St. Mary, St. Nicholas, and St. Catherine :

Catherine : and five chantries. The south ayse of the church belongs to Doreward's-hall ; about the middle of which is a free stone, with the effigies of a man and a woman, but the inscriptions have been long since taken away : it is supposed, however, to represent some of the Doreward's family, who at the time of their being the possessors, gave name to the manor.

THE north ayse of the chancel belongs to Bocking-hall. On the north side of which is erected a monument of marble of various colours. Between two columns of red marble, supporting a neat pediment, is the figure of the lady to whose memory it was erected, in a posture of devotion : upon a table of black marble is an inscription informing us, that Mrs. Moore, wife of Adrian Moore, esq. died in child bed in the year 1624, and was buried there. Upon another table of black marble, under the whole are the following lines :

Having lost one dear to me,
 Reader, I shall let you see
 If this stone could help to show
 How my heart is plunged in woe :
 To want the comfort once I had
 Ere she within this mould was clad ;
 Too greatly should I be oppress'd,
 Did I not know her happy rest,
 Who while she liv'd made Christ her stay
 And now doth live with him for aye

THE following, recording a most remarkable gift of great consequence, (the particulars of which are given among the other benefactions of this parish) cannot but

but be acceptable to the generality of my readers ; it is wrote upon a neat marble monument upon the east side of the same chancel ayfle.

Sacred
to the memory of
PRISCA COBOURNE
relict of Thomas Cobourne,
of Stratford-le-bow, gent.
who though young, and of a great fortune,
yet, for the sake of the public,
refused to alter her condition.
She was daughter to the rev. Mr. Foster,
minister of Bow,
and lived worthy that church she sprung from ;
and died not unmindful of her descent from it,
piously disposing of her estate, which was very large,
to religious, charitable, and prudent uses,
thus her manor of Bocking-hall,
with all the lands appertaining to it,
(one farm only, reserved for another charity.)
She bequeathed to the corporation of the sons of the clergy
for the relief of poor widows of the church of England ministers,
and to place out their children, unprovided for,
to honest trades and proper employments.
Tho' her body lies entombed at Bow,
yet the corporation of the sons of the clergy,
in gratitude to their good benefactress,
ordered this monument to be here erected,
to her honour, and for the example of others ;
and the following lines to be inscribed
to her perpetual memory

Stay, passenger,
Though Cobourne's ashes lay not here enshrin'd,
Here view the lively portrait of her mind ;

Chasse,

Chaste, pious, liberal, good: graces that claim,
 Immortal honors, and a deathless fame,
 Her monument for ages yet to come,
 Wouldst thou behold! leave this imperfect tomb,
 Go and survey the spacious lands around,
 That fair inheritance her poor have found,
 Those virtues bore her noble soul above,
 And rais'd this stone with gratitude and love.

IN the body of the chancel are two monuments, placed against the north wall, but they do not contain any thing worthy notice.

ON one side of the church-yard the walls are embattled, as if formerly cannon had been placed there.

IN the church-yard, upon a tomb encompassed with iron rails, after informing the reader, that 'John Mayfent, gent. of Bocking-hall, and his family are interred here,' are the lines following:

Let these momentos of mortality
 Warn us on earthly gifts not to rely,
 Youth, beauty, wisdom, virtue, strength, estate,
 Without respect or favour have their fate;
 Sufficient proof each day, each hour affords,
 Eight here this single monument records:
 A wife, in whom all noble virtues join'd;
 A wife, in whom the graces all combin'd;
 And seven hopeful children here do lie,
 Bearing their lovely mother company.
 The last was John, whose praises let them tell,
 Who knew his virtues and his goodness well.
 Since then our loss their gain is, cease to mourn,
 For we to them shall go; not they return:
 Then bear it calmly, though a heavy loss,
 The only way to heaven is by the Cross.

RECTORY

RECTORY OF BOCKING.

INCUMBENT.

Charles Hall, D. D.

1761

PATRON.

Abp. of Canterbury.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOCKS.

TENTHS.

£ 35 10 0

£ 3 11 0

DEANS OF BOCKING.

Cha. Hall, D. D. jointly with

Thomas Tenner, D. D. rector of Hadley, 1761.

PANTFIELD

IS a pleasant healthful parish, watered by the river Blackwater, formerly called the Pant, from whence it derived it's name. It is not very large, being from east to west only about two miles, and from north to south about three. Within it are some woodlands; and a few hops are grown here; the soil in general is rather heavy. It contains only two manors, viz. Pantfield hall, and the priory.

PANTFIELD-HALL stands due south of, and very near the church, and is a large building, commanding a most beauteous prospect. In 1546 the hall was built; and in 1583 the other buildings of this house were erected by George Cotton and Frances his wife, who at that time were possessors of this manor. It
formerly

formerly was possessed by a family named Waterville; from whom it went by marriage into that of Langham; who were succeeded therein by those of Sir John Cotton, Gawdy, Hart, Washington, Heron, Fitz-Symonds, Carter, Beale, and belongs now to Guy's-hospital.

PANTFIELD Priory stands due north, very near the church. About the year 1070, Waleron Fitz-Ralph, a nobleman of Normandy, gave this manor to the abbey at Caen, near Normandy, which was founded by the Conqueror, who dedicated it to God and St. Stephen the proto-martyr. But how long after this gift the priory-house here was founded is not easily to be determined; but that it was before the year 1250 is evident from the prior and monk of this place having licence granted them for a free warren in that year. The priory being thus founded, became a cell to that great benedictine abbey of St. Stephen; and the reason of erecting those cells is conjectured to be either for the increase of their own order, or to have faithful stewards to their own lands; and by this means to increase the number of donations to the principal convent. For the noble founder not only endowed this abbey with several considerable estates in France, but likewise with some extensive lordships in England. This priory continued in a very flourishing state till the wars between France and England broke out, and then was seized as a priory-alien, by king Edward the Second, in order to prevent the carrying out of the kingdom immense sums of money

to an enemy's country: and king Edward the Third confiscated all the goods and estates of such priories as were cells to any monasteries in France, letting out such priories and their lands and tenements to farm, during the space of twenty-three years: at the expiration of which term, or not long afterwards, the wars between the two kingdoms being ended, they were restored, and continued in the former state till the year 1414, when all the Alien-priories throughout England, not conventical, were totally suppressed, and given by the parliament of Leicester to king Henry the Fifth, and his heirs for ever, some few lands only excepted. But the generality of those estates were distributed among the other religious houses throughout the kingdom, and not suffered to be alienated to the laity till the total suppression of religious houses by king Henry the Eighth. However this manor in the year 1415 was granted by king Henry the Fifth to John Woodhouse, of Norfolk, esq. to hold by the service of a red rose; his son enjoyed it after him, and at his death it reverted again to the crown. In 1460, king Henry the Sixth granted it in free alms to King's College, Cambridge: and in 1461, king Edward the Fourth granted the priory, and all the estates belonging thereto, to Gresild, widow of John Hende, esq. to hold by the service of a red rose yearly. She alienated it to Thomas Bouchier, cardinal of St. Cyriac and archbishop of Canterbury*;

* This Thomas Bouchier wore a mitre fifty-one years, and was archbishop of Canterbury thirty-two years.—A circumstance without it's parallel.

who

who gave it to the prior and convent of Canterbury; where it continued till the suppression of religious houses; and then was granted, with Bocking-park, and four hundred acres of wood to Sir Giles Cappel, of Raine-hall; he was succeeded therein by the families of Gooday, Seaman, West, Wright: in the last of which families it continues, being now enjoyed by — Wright, esq. son of the late Sir Martin Wright, knt. one of the Justices of the king's bench.

ALL the estates in this parish are at fine certain.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church (situate from Bocking church due west about a mile,) is small, but very neat, of one pace with the chancel; in the spire at the west end are three bells. The altar-piece of wainscot, is very elegant: and was erected at the expence of the late rector, Mr. Thomas Kynaston.

The only monument worthy notice is a neat one to the memory of the late rector's wife.

THE advowson of this rectory all along belonged to the manor of Pantfield-hall, till Thomas Cotton, and Ann his wife, conveyed it to Michael Adams; from whom it passed to John Durden, clerk, whose son succeeded him therein; and he sold it to Thomas Martyn, attorney at Thackstead; and his son conveyed it to John Ousely, clerk; who in 1704 presented to the living the Rev. Anthony Holbrook, who, at the death of Mr. Ousely succeeded to the advowson; and

fold it to Thomas Laws, of Frierning in this county, yeoman, who presented his son, the Rev. Thomas Cox Laws, to this church upon Mr. Holbrook's resignation. Mr. Thomas Laws was succeeded in the advowson by John Price, esq. and he presented his son; the next possessors of it were John and Richard Whishaw, gent. and it is now in Thomas Kynaſton, esq.

PANTFIELD RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

Rev. Tho. Poynton, M. A. Thomas Kynaſton, esq.

1764.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 10 10 0

£ 1 1 0

R A Y N E

IS a parish lying west of Braintree, in the road to Dunmow. It is called Little Rayne to distinguish it from Great Rayne, now called Braintree; both of which are comprehended in domesday-book under the name Raine: It was separated about the time of king Henry the Second, as may be seen in our account of Braintree. This parish of Little Rayne is remarkable for it's healthy situation; and a matter worthy observation is, that except when a malignant fever has prevailed here, all the burials are either infants, or persons above sixty, many above seventy,
some

some eighty and upwards, and one John Hawes died here aged ninety-four. It is observed, that there has not been six exceptions in ten years time. In this parish is a water corn-mill; the stream which works it has no name, but takes its rise somewhere in the parish of Bardfield. Mr. English, an eminent say-maker, has lately built here a neat brick house. Here are only two manors; that of Baynard's, or Old-hall, and Rayne-hall.

THE manor of Old-hall otherwise Baynard's, in Edward the Confessor's time was parted between two freemen, named Alwin and Edric (who had vast possessions in this county) but at the general survey the whole belonged to Roger, one of the companions of the conqueror, who took the surname of Raines or Ramis from this parish; whose posterity resided here for many generations. About the end of king Henry the Third's reign this estate was possessed by a family named Baynard. The last survivor of the Raine family sold it to John Oxensley; since when it has been possessed by the families of Downham and Filiol; the last of which families enjoyed it for upwards of two hundred years: it passed from them to Thomas Smith, of Great Bardfield, esq. in this county.

The manor-house of Barnard's was situate in the north part of this parish, in an enclosure named Chapel-field, upon a small ascent near the river; at which place there are still some small marks remaining of the house and moat that encompassed it: between the road and the house, where the hop-grounds are now, were formerly

formerly fish-ponds. When this field was ploughed up, within the memory of some lately living, the rubbish, &c. of the old mansion were laid bare.

The manor of Rayne-hall at the time of the general survey, was held by a family named Montford: some time after it became vested in that of Wells; from whom it passed into that of Lewkeher, and then reverted into the Wells family again; and from it's long continuance there was also called Wells-hall. In the year 1362 it was possessed by William de Rustbrooke, to whom it came by his marriage into the last named family: his daughter marrying Mr. John Pyke, this manor went with her into that family; who were succeeded herein by those of L'Estrange and Tournants; from which last family in 1486 it was passed to Sir William Capel, and in his family it has continued to this present time. The mansion-house of Rayne-hall seems to have been built at two separate times; the old part by some of the Welles family; and the new by Sir Giles Capel, sometime between the year 1510 and 1520.

BESIDES the two manors already described, there are the following estates in this parish; viz. The Lodge belonging to the right honourable the earl of Essex; Pound farm, to Milbourne Carter, esq. Mounts, to James Raymond, esq. of South Walden; Sow-mill lands, to John Yeldham, esq. Goulds, &c. &c.

THE church, dedicated to All Saints, was founded not long after the division of the two parishes; the body of it is by much the most ancient building in these

these parts, and supposed to have stood ever since the first foundation. The steeple, built of brick, is very substantial and lofty, and contains four bells : it was built by Sir William Capel, the purchaser of Rayne-hall, whose arms are embossed upon the brick work, near the foundation of it.

ROBERT de Welles, and Harvey de Raynes endowed this church with house and glebe, in 1199, as appears from the original deed still extant. The rectory pays a quit rent of twenty shillings a year to the lord of the manor of Terling; but for what is entirely unknown.

In the west end of the south-aisle was an altar and chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, which in former superstitious times were much frequented by child-bearing women : the occasion of which is related to be as follows : in the reign of king Edward the Third, the wife of John de Naylinghurst, of the parish of Great Rayne, (now called Braintree) being in labour, but without the hopes of a speedy delivery, some of the women that attended her, resolved to go and pray for her to our *Lady of Mercy*, in her chapel here. While they were at their devotion, imagining that the Holy Virgin, overcome with the zeal and fervor of their petitions, did cast a *gracious smile* upon them, they took it as a certain omen of the lady's safe delivery. Big with that expectation, they ran back; and at their first entrance into the house, being saluted with the glad tidings of the lady's safe delivery, they said, ' It is no news to us; we knew ' it would be so, for our Lady of Mercy smiled upon us.'

'us.' This story gained so much credit and repute to the Virgin, and her chapel at Rayne, that it grew into a proverb: 'You will ere long go say your prayers at Rayne,' meaning, 'you will shortly be with child.'

RAYNE RECTORY.

INCUMBENT.

John Powel, M. A.

1756.

PATRON.

Earl of Essex.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

£. 14 13 4

TENTHS.

£. 1 19 4

FELSTEAD

IS a parish exceedingly pleasant and healthy, situate at the south-west corner of this hundred; about ten miles from Chelmsford, four from Dunmow, and six from Braintree. It derives its name from two words, signifying a *billy place*. This parish in 1059 was the property of Eadwine, son of Alger, the great earl of Mercia; but upon his revolting against king William, his estates became forfeited; and the Conqueror gave this with Great Badow to the monastery of the Holy Trinity at Caen in Normandy. Among the several manors this parish was anciently divided into;

FELSTEAD-

FELSTEAD-BURY is a manor which belonged to St. Stephen's Abbey; which having a cell so nigh as at Pantfield, there was not occasion for any here. This lordship continued part of the possessions of that abbey till the breaking out of the wars between England and France; at which time it was seized as a priory-Alien, in the same manor as Pantfield-priory, with this difference only; that at the time most of their possessions were restored, this was one of the estates that still remained in the crown; upon which account king Richard the Second presented to this church in 1384. I have already observed, that most of the possessions of these Alien-priories, seized at their general suppression, were not suffered to be alienated to the laity, till the total suppression of religious houses by Henry the Eighth; therefore when the parliament gave this amongst other considerable estates, to king Henry the Fifth, he bestowed it on the monastery of Sion * in Middlesex, founded by him in 1413, and dedicated to St. Saviour, St. Mary, and St. Bridget, for nuns and priests: the abbess and convent whereof presented to the church; and the lordship and advowson continued in that house till the general suppression of monasteries, when Angles, it's last abbess, in 1537, alienated to Sir Richard Rich, the manor and rectory, the advowson of the

* In Sion-house were sixty sisters, thirteen priests, four deacons, and eight lay-brethren. Near this was the monastery of Carthusians, called Bethlem: for these two convents there was but one church; in which the nuns were seated above; the friars below.

vicarage, and whatever did of old belong to the abbey of Caen, in Felstead and in the neighbouring parishes: what a vast acquisition this was for a hungry courtier, will appear from the grant itself, which contained 40 messuages, 1000 acres of arable, 100 acres of meadow, 1000 acres of pasture, 200 acres of wood, and 40 of furze and heath land; besides 20l. rent in Felstead, Barnstone, Stebbing, Pleshey, Great and Little Dunmow, Great and Little Waltham, Great and Little Leighs, Raynes, the two Notleys, Braintree, Bocking, and Maplestead in this county: the manor of Graunt-courts was likewise included in this grant; which manor is now united with Felstead-bury.

BESIDES Graunt-courts, a manor called Havering, and an estate that belonged to Roger Wentworth, esq. consisting of a capital messuage, 40 acres of arable, 5 of meadow, and thirty of wood land, were holden of Felstead-bury, and purchased by the said Sir Richard Rich of the said Roger.

THE following nominal manors had no dependence on the abbey of Caen; viz. Glandfield, Loves, and Endfields: that of Frenches; Whelpeston or Helpston, and Camseys.

THE former of these lies in the parish of Felstead, Little Leighs, and Great and Little Waltham; and is made up of several parts, distinguished by the names of the several persons who formerly held them.

ENDSFIELD, or GLANDFIELDS is a farm lying between

tween this parish and Hertford-end; but has no court.

THE manor of French's has a mansion house, situate on the great common, and is now called *French's at the Fairy*, near the windmill, where the court formerly used to be held in the gravel-pit.

THE manor of Whelpston or Helpston has a mansion, on a small eminence by the side of the road leading to Leigh's priory.

THE manor of Camsey's lies at the farthest parts of this parish, bordering upon Great Waltham.

ALL which estates were found centured in Sir Richard Rich, at the time of his decease; and which he transmitted to his posterity and successors; who were Robert lord Rich, who died in 1580-1; his son Robert, created earl of Warwick, who died in 1619; his son * Robert, admiral to the long par-

* In 1640, an estimate of this earl's estates was made as follows;

	per annum
In Felstead	1050 0 0
Three parks, containing 1458 acres	600 0 0
Much Waltham	1130 0 0
Barnstone	160 0 0
Broomfield, Chelmsford, &c.	250 0 0
Braintree	400 0 0
Manor of Grange in Tiptree-heath	100 0 0
Foulness	1500 0 0
Suffolk and Northamptonshire	1600 0 0
Norfolk	400 0 0
	<hr/> 7190 0 0 <hr/>

liament; who besides his two sons, Robert and Charles, had Ann, married to Edward, son of the lord Manchester; Lucy, to lord John Roberts; and Frances to Nicholas earl of Scarfdale. He dying in 1658, his eldest son Robert, by his first wife, had an only son, named Robert, who married Frances, the daughter of the protector Cromwell; but he died before him without issue. By his second wife, he had Anne, married to Thomas Barrington, esq. Mary to Sir Henry St. John; and Essex, to Daniel Finch, esq. afterwards earl of Nottingham. Their father, Robert earl of Warwick, dying without male issue in 1659 was succeeded by his brother Charles, and he died in 1673 without surviving issue. His widow, Mary, (sister to the learned and ingenious Robert Boyle, esq.) dying in 1678, the vast estates of this family were divided among the coheiresses of the two last earls of Warwick of the names of Robert; in which partition Sir Charles Barrington and Sir Henry St. John had not any thing in Felstead; the earl of Nottingham had the nomination to the free-school and the alms-houses; the earl of Scarfdale had only Whelpstones*, in this parish,

* Sir Charles Barrington had the chase and manor of Hatfield Broad-oak; Sir Henry St. John the manors of Rochford, Aslingdon, Leigh, Prittlewell, Hadley-castle, and West-hall in Pagletham.---- The earl of Nottingham had the impropriate tythes of Braintree, Foulness-island, the manors of Raleigh, Eastwood, Hawkswell, South-Church, and South-Shoebury, The earl of Scarfdale had the manor of Braintree and advowson of the vicarage there; Broomfield-hall, Patching-hall, Wood-hall, Warrocks, Brohams, Moulsham-hall, and Fairwood in Great and Little Lees; and Slamseys in Notley.

(which

(which is now in lord Waltham;) the earl of Manchester had the part of Leighs-house and park which lie in this parish; namely the part of Leighs priory, the Lodge, and Pond-park, and which the late duke of Manchester sold to the duke of Buckinghamshire, whose successor alineated them to Guy's-hospital: but the greatest share of the estate in this parish, namely, the manors of Felstead Bury, Grant courts, Camsees, Endfields, Loves, Frenches, the rectory and advowson, with some other farms, fell to John lord Robert, of Truro, in right of Lucy, his lady. John, earl of Radnor, sold these estates to — Vanderbendy, and John Rotherham, esq. in trust; from whom they were conveyed to Sir Josiah Child, knt. and bart. from him they descended to Sir Richard Child, late earl of Tilney, of Castle-main in the kingdom of Ireland; and they now belong to John, earl of Tilney.

THE demesnes of Frenches, and two other farms, belong now to Mrs. Porter of London; Felstead-place, and another farm, to General Honeywood; Chablock's to Stane Chamberlayne, esq. Stevens's to John Yeldham, esq. Pot-ash farm to Thomas Brand, esq. Shatter-glass to — Scott, gent. Pies-bridge to William Rayment, gent. Moors to Mr. Wyatt; Sawards to Joseph Nottage, jun. esq. Garlands and Loffons to Mr. Ambrose Lilly: Brook-farm and another, to Mr. Sayer: Woods, to Mrs. Minshell: Stebbing-farm to Mrs. Smart; besides which, Mrs. Sorley's daughters; the Rev. Thomas Chapel; William

William Townesend, gent. Mr. Daniel Richardson; Mr. Henry Seabroke, and ten or twelve others have lands in this parish.

THIS parish is exempted from the paying of any monies or other contributions towards the repairs of county bridges, as appears from an ancient manuscript in the possession of the Rev. Mr. William Drake of Felstead.

Charitable Benefactions.

FIVE pounds four shillings per annum for ever, were given by Arthur Wilson, esq. in 1652, for two dozen of bread weekly, to be distributed to the poor every Sunday.

Two pounds twelve shillings per annum, were given by Dionysius Palmer, esq. for one dozen of bread, to be distributed in the same manner as the foregoing charity.

THE like sum as the last mentioned, and for the same good purpose, was given by Mr. Tanner.

SEVEN pounds twelve shillings were given by Mrs. Boteler, of this parish, payable annually for ever out of the yearly rents of a certain meadow in this parish, for the following purposes: 2l. 12s. for one dozen of bread as above: 2l. 8s. for cloathing three boys and three girls, from eight to twelve years old, with coarse stuff or bays of a dark colour, 2l. 12s. for instructing the said poor children to read.

MR. THOMAS WOODROOFFE, late vicar of this parish, augmented the vicarage with twelve pounds a year

year for ever : he likewise, in consideration that there was not any glebe belonging to the vicarage, presented to the vicar a meadow of near twenty acres : only Mrs. Boteler's charity above mentioned is payable out of it.

Of the Free-school and Alms-house.

IN the year 1504, Richard lord Rich, founded the free-school here, with provision for a school-master and usher, appropriating to the use of the same as follows : A good school-house, standing just before the south-side of the church, fronting the street : a good dwelling house for the master, with a garden and close adjoining, of about two acres : and other conveniencies, standing upon the road leading from Felstead church towards Stebbing or Braintree ; and a convenient chamber adjoining to the school for the usher.

He ordered that the chaplain of the foundation should be a priest, chosen by the heirs of the founder, named and collated in writing ; which chaplain should be the school-master, to teach eighty male children, born in Essex ; the usher to assist in teaching such children in the form and manner as the school-master should direct ; and upon sufficient complaint made by such master to the heirs, the usher to be displaced, and another chosen in his stead. Neither school-master or usher are to be absent above eight days in a quarter, without good excuse ; and if either master or usher are removed, another must be appointed
within

within six weeks, otherwise the bishop of London may collate. If the chaplain of this foundation has any other spiritual promotion besides what is the gift of the heirs of the founder, he is to be removed. The church-wardens are to pay thirteen shillings and four pence for a sermon to be preached every Whitsunday in the afternoon; at the end of which this psalm, *Deus misereatur nostri*, and then a collect, which is set down in the writings.

ON Low-sunday the church-wardens are to make their accounts before the heirs, or any one whom they shall appoint, with the vicar of Felstead, and the chaplain and usher, or two of them, and two other honest persons of the parish. The church-wardens to pay six shillings and eight pence to the said vicar, for his trouble in looking after the true execution of the foundation, and calling upon the church-wardens for that purpose.

IN 1564, the same lord founded in this parish likewise a good alms-house, with an orchard, a brew-house, barn, and other out-houses, and a sufficient quantity of pasture-land in Felstead, for keeping six milch-cows, all for the use and maintenance of six poor people. He also gave a grove of wood, with liberty to fell some wood yearly for their fire-wood, and several other advantages and conveniencies for their comfortable subsistence. Five poor, weak, old, impotent, lame persons, and a grave woman to attend them, and continually provide, dress, and prepare their meat and drink, wash and cherish the said
five

five poor people to the utmost of her power. If the heir puts not another poor woman or man into the place vacated; within one month's time, then the chaplain or church-wardens may place one. The woman of the house is to be removed out of her place, in case she, through sickness or weakness, becomes unable to perform her office; and if removed on such account, she is to have the next place of the five that falls vacant; but not if she be removed for lewd living, false dealing, and misusing of her office. If either of the five poor women be of evil living or conversation, a tippler, ale-house keeper, common drunkard, or common brawler and disturber of the quiet of the rest, or wilful waster of any of the goods and possessions belonging to the house, or shall marry, or have any evil haunt to their lodging, or keep any children in the said house; then upon complaint made to, and proved before the heir, or upon writing made hereof by the chaplain, church-wardens, or the vicar of Felstead, and the farmer of the Bury, with two or three of the most substantial men of the said parish, every such person's place shall be forthwith void.

Money-Rents payable quarterly to the church-wardens of Felstead; for the use and support of this foundation.

			l.	s.	d.
From Felstead-Bury	—	—	20	0	0
Broomfield parsonage	—	—	50	6	11
More from thence, by the grant of the E- of Nottingham			18	0	0
From Braintree parsonage	—	—	30	1	8
Matching parsonage	—	—	29	4	6
Carried over			147	13	1

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	147	13	1
From a farm in Morton *	16	13	6
More from thence by the late E. of Nottingham's gift	22	13	4
Total	186	19	11

Out of those rents are yearly paid as follows :

To the master, by quarterly payments, for his salary	50	0	0
To the same, by a late grant of the late E. of Nottingham	14	0	0
To the usher	25	0	0
To the same, by a late grant from the same earl	7	0	0
By the same grant to be put into the foundation chest } for occasional purposes	3	0	0

About the year 1767, the late earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, made a further augmentation in the above salaries, out of the increase of the rents of Braintree parsonage, as follows :

To the master or chaplain	6	0	0
To the usher	3	0	0
To the foundation chest	12	0	0
Total of the master's salary	70	0	0
of the usher's	35	0	0
of the money annually put into the foundation chest	15	0	0

Corn rents quarterly to the Alms-houses.

	Bush. of Wheat,	Bush. of Malt,
From Broomfield parsonage	18	29
Braintree ditto	16	16
Matching ditto	18	33
Morton farm	4	4

Four bushels of each to be delivered monthly, accounting twenty eight days to the month, to the six poor people, and five shillings and four pence each month

* This farm has generally been applied to the benefit of the masters; the present master.

to one of the women, being the house-keeper, and three shillings and four pence to each of the other five: the church-wardens of Felstead have ten shillings allowed betwixt them out of the Braintree parsonage.

Out of the above specified rents there are also provided yearly, eleven barrels of white herrings and eleven cades of red herrings, to be distributed to such poor, not in the poor's rate, on every Sunday in Lent, as followeth: three barrels, and some part of the red, to the church-wardens of Much Waltham, for the poor there; two barrels and a cade to Little Leighs, and the remainder to the poor of the parish of Felstead.

Masters of Felstead-school, from its first Foundation.

The Rev. Mr. Wharton,		Rev. Mr. Christ. Glascock, 1650
Berryman,	1566	Simon Lydiat, 1690
Greenwood,	1577	Hugh Hutchin, 1713
Manning,	1597	John Wyatt, 1725
Holbeach,	1626	William Drake, 1750

Amongst the remarkable persons educated at Felstead-school, were Oliver, Richard, and Henry, three sons of Oliver Cromwell. Dr. John Wallis, and Dr. Isaac Barrow.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church, dedicated to the Holy Cross, is situate on a rising ground, and consists of a middle pace and two small ayssles, leaded. The chancel is of the same pace with the church, but tiled. Adjoining to the chancel, upon the south-side, is a chapel, beneath

M M M 2

which

which is the burial place of the Rich family. The tower, at the west end is of stone, and embattled, and contains five bells : upon the top of the tower is a small lanthorn.

In the chapel, just mentioned, (which was built by Robert, the second lord Rich, for the burial place of his father and family,) against the south wall is a most superb monument to the memory of Richard lord Rich, the generous founder of the school and alms-house. It is about thirteen feet high, seven broad ; and composed of various kinds of the most beautiful and costly marble. Under a grand cornice, elegantly decorated, and supported by two noble pillars of brass of the Corinthian order, and two of red and white marble, is seen the whole length effigy of this great man dressed in his chancellor's robes, painted, and gilt in the richest manner. He is represented in a cumbent posture, his head reclining on his left arm, which rests upon a pillow. Under the cornice, against the east and south walls, are various emblematical devices, wrought in tables of white marble in a very skilful manner ; in the midst of which is his arms, in basso relievo, of inimitable workmanship. Above the cornice, is the representation of an angel, done in marble also. Upon the front of the tomb, upon which his effigy is placed, are two very large plates of brass, inlaid in tables of exceeding rich marble ; but the engravings on these plates are very indifferent, and the design not understood. Upon the west side of this expensive pile of sculpture is the figure

figure of a person, in posture of devotion, (supposed to be intended for the son of this nobleman) but what is very extraordinary, and in some measure to be regretted, there is not throughout the whole, a single line of inscription. However, whilst the school and alms-houses remain, posterity will not be at a loss to know to whose memory this grand monument was erected. Against the east and south walls of this chapel, the irons remain, on which were suspended the banners, casks, helmets, gauntlets, &c. &c. of this great family.

THIS curious monument is going into decay a great pace; indeed some part of it has already fell to pieces: the chapel likewise within, wants repairs much; the doors which went down to the family vault are removed, and the place now covered with tiles. However, I am told that lord Tilney has taken upon himself to keep it in repair: so doubt not but this monument and chapel will not be suffered much longer to remain in their present ruinous condition.

IN the chancel ayse, upon the ground on the south side, is the following inscription engraved on a small plate of brass, inlaid in a black marble stone:

Thomas Ryche,
Filius Robertus Ryche, militas
Obiit 1564
Et sepultus erat
Apud Felsted,
the 4th of February

NOT

Not far from which inscription, but on the other side of the said ayse, is the following on a stone in the ground; which I transcribe on account of its recording a benefaction.

Here lies the body of
The Rev. and truly pious
THOMAS WOODROOFFE,
Sometime the worthy pastor of this parish,
Over which he faithfully presided
Thirty-three years.
As he was a bright ornament to the place
he filled whilst alive,
So at his death he proved a kind benefactor, in
Bequeathing to this vicarage
Twelve pounds per annum for ever.
He died much lamented
Oct. 13, 1712,
Aged 57.

There are not any other monuments or inscriptions in this church or chapel, that have any thing extraordinary to recommend them to a place in this work.

WITHIN this parish there was formerly a free-chapel, called the chapel of Camsey's, or Hertford chapel, of which the prior and convent of Leigh were patrons. This chapel was dedicated to St. Margaret, and the chaplain was called the keeper of St. Margaret's chapel. But neither the founder, or the time when it was founded, are known. It is conjectured to have been erected by some of the Kemsec family near Hertford-end: but it is so long since the time of its being taken down, that there is not now any
of

of its remains to be traced. Some persons have imagined it to be the same with Black chapel; but that opinion must certainly be erroneous.

THE patronage of this church hath ever been appendant to the manor of Felstead-Bury; and hath passed with that manor to the present patron.

FELSTEAD VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

PATRON.

No one has been appointed since the death of the last incumbent.

The Right Hon. John earl of Tilney.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

TENTHS.

£ 13 6 8

£ 1 6 8

STEBBING

PARISH adjoins that of Felstead on its north side, and is about six miles from Braintree, and from Dunmow about three. It is computed to be near twenty-six miles in circumference. The situation is rather lofty; and the soil light and fertile. A river runs through it that supplies two water corn-mills; and from hence takes it's course thro' Felstead to Chelmsford, and empties itself into the Chelmer. Over this river is a wooden bridge and gravel causeway, supported at the expence of the parishioners.

Here

Here are two hills, or mounts, on the highest of which, as tradition goes, a castle formerly stood. The chief part of this parish is divided into the following manors, or reputed manors; viz. Stebbing-hall, Porter's-hall; and Friers or Prior's-hall.

THE first-mentioned of these manors has a mansion about a quarter of a mile north of the church. This manor at the time of the general survey was in Ralph Peverell, a Norman lord, (of whom I have given an account in page 264, 265) whose son William succeeded him herein; and he was succeeded by his son William; but he having poisoned Ralph, earl of Chester, was obliged to fly, and leave his vast possessions a forfeit to his king, Henry the Second, who bestowed this manor on John, earl of Mortain, his brother; which afterwards came into the family of Ferrers, where it continued for many generations: one of which family (Henry de Ferrers, of Groby) in 1338 obtained a charter for a market every Monday and a fair upon the eve and day of St. Peter and Paul, and two days ensuing. From the Ferrers family it went by marriage to Sir Edward Grey; whose son Sir John Grey succeeded him herein; but was killed in the second battle of St. Alban's, in 1460, on the side of king Henry II. and his estates became confiscated. Elizabeth, his lady, soon after king Edward II. ascended the throne, took an opportunity of waiting on him, and implored a maintenance for herself and children. Upon sight of her, the amorous monarch's heart was smitten, who

who when he found he could not prevail upon her to be his concubine, consented to make her his queen.--- Thomas, her eldest son, was restored to her father's estates, and advanced to the dignity of earl of Huntington and marquis of Dorset; but being attainted of high treason in the reign of Richard III. he fled into Flanders, and followed the fortune of Henry earl of Richmond; by whom, when king of England, he was restored to his estates and honours. His eldest son, Thomas Grey, marquis of Dorset, succeeded him; and his successor was Henry, his eldest son; who was succeeded by a son of the same name. This last named Henry was father to lady Jane, married to Guildford Dudley, fourth son of the duke of Northumberland, and proclaimed queen of England at the death of Edward VI. by which she and her husband both lost their lives. Henry, her father was also beheaded in 1544, for joining Sir Thomas Wyatt: But before his death he had alienated this manor to Sir Robert Southwell; of whom it was purchased by king Henry the Eighth: this monarch exchanged it for some other estates with Sir Giles Capel of Rayne-hall; in which family it has continued ever since, being now the property of the right honorable the earl of Essex.

THE manor of Porter's-hall has a very old mansion, moated round, about a mile south east of the church; and took its name from an ancient possessor. This manor has been possessed by the families of Peverell, Ferrers, Dunstavill, Umfreville, Porter, Badlesmere,

and some others ; but at length became incorporated into the large possessions of the Capels, now earl of Essex ; with whom it continues.

A FARM in this parish, called Freers, belongs to Francis Batt, esq. of Bunting, near Salisbury in Wilts : there are three or four other estates in this parish belonging to different gentlemen, but the rest of the parish is the property of the present earl of Essex.

Charitable Benefactions.

MRS. BATT, of this parish, gave 150*l.* to proper trustees, the interest of which was formerly laid out in the education of poor children of this parish ; but for some years past has been given in bread or money to the most indigent poor.

THERE are likewise two fields, the rents of which are distributed to the poor of this parish.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church dedicated to St. Mary, is a very large and good old building, consisting of two ayfles and a body, leaded ; the chancel has two ayfles, tiled ; and the whole is in decent repair. Its situation is pleasant, being on an eminence at the upper end of the village.

THIS church originally was a rectory, annexed to the chief lordship of this town ; but William de Ferrers, earl of Derby, about the reign of king Henry the Second, gave it to the knights hospitallers of St.

John

John of Jerusalem* upon which the rectory was appropriated to that hospital, and a vicarage ordained, and the prior and convent were patrons thereof till the general dissolution; when king Henry the Eighth granted the rectory and advowson of the vicarage to Thomas Cornewall and his heirs; from whom they passed into the families of Tiffyn, Fitch, Brook, Sorrell, Lane, Mansir, and Batt, in the last-named family it continues, Francis Batt, esq. of Bunting, near Salisbury in Wilts, being the present impropiator.

WITHIN or about the church is not any monument or inscription worthy notice.

STEBBING VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

Charles Bingham, A. M.

1769.

PATRON.

Francis Batt, esq.

VALUE IN THE KING'S BOOKS.

£. 12 0 0

TENTHS.

£. 1 4 0

G R E A T S A L I N G .

THERE are in this county two Sailings, but in different hundreds; that I am now to treat of, is distinguished by the name of Great or Old Saling; and the other in Freshwell half-hundred is

* This was no inconsiderable gift; the rectory being formerly of the yearly value of 260l, and the vicarage of 120.l

called Little, or Bardfield Saling. They were not originally distinct, but comprised under the same name; and that so late as at the general survey.

GREAT SALING adjoins Stebbing on its north side, stands south-east of Little Saling, and is bounded on the other side by Shalford, Pantfield, Rayne and Felstead. The village, about four miles from Braintree, is pleasant, of a triangular form, inclosing a small common or green, of five acres and a half; round which the houses are pretty regularly ranged, and appear very neat. At the north corner is the road to Great Bardfield, which, for rather more than a quarter of a mile, forms an avenue of stately elms, at the end of which stands the church and the hall. From the grove is a most delightful prospect of Danbury, and all the high grounds towards the south from Tiptree-heath to Pleshey. Part of this parish is watered by a small brook called Podds, or Pondsbrook, which rises in Great Bardfield; from whence it takes its course through Pantfield, Braintree, the Notleys, Falkbourne, Rivenhall, and falls into the Pant. This parish is about two miles across, either way: the soil is of various sorts, but very fertile: and the manors contained herein are the manor of Saling-hall; and Piccott's, a reputed manor; as also is Parks.

SALING-HALL manor has a mansion which is a good brick building, extremely pleasantly situated, and adjoining the church-yard eastward. This manor,
about

about the year 1150 was in a family named Wischard, and from them went into that of Bibesworth; where after having continued for many generations, it passed in marriage to that of Cotys; from them it went into those of Pole and Maxey; in which last family it continued from the year 1487 to 1665, when this manor and Picott's, the rectory and advowson of the church, were sold for the sum of 3980l. to Martin Carter, esq. in which family they continued till 1717, which Hugh Raymond, esq. purchased them; from his family they passed into that of Burrel, and they now belong to Mrs. Burrel.

PICOTT'S is a reputed manor, and has passed from a family of that name to those of Mandeville Hende, Writtle, Bassett, Bonham, Maxey, Carter, Collins, Lumley, and now belongs to Guy's hospital.

PARKS, which is likewise a reputed manor, took its name from a family who possessed it from about the year 1293, till after the reign of Henry the Eighth; from whom it passed into the families of Maxey, Ellis, and Porter; it now belongs to John Yeldham, esq. The mansion is near three quarters of a mile east from the church.— This gentleman hath also a farm called Onchors, lying in this parish, and the site of the parsonage and glebe lands; and resides in a good brick house, by the side of the green, fronting the hall.

BLACK-END FARM is a large farm in this parish belonging to the right hon. the earl of Essex,

Chari-

Charitable Benefactions.

ONE pound per annum is left to the poor of this parish; by whom is not known. The churchwardens have the distribution of it.

CHURCH, MONUMENTS, & INSCRIPTIONS.

THE church, dedicated to St. James, is a neat small building, of one pace with the chancel; both of which are tiled. At the west end is a tower, containing one bell. The whole is in good repair.

THIS church originally was a rectory, till Baldwin Wischard gave it to the priory of Little Dunmow, when a vicarage was ordained, of which the prior and convent were patrons till their dissolution, when king Henry the Eighth, in 1536, made a grant of the rectory and advowson of the vicarage to Robert earl of Suffex; but three years afterwards he made a fresh grant of the same to John Maxey, esq. since when it hath gone with the manor of Old Saling-hall.

THERE is not either monument or inscription here worthy notice.

GREAT SALING VICARAGE.

INCUMBENT.

William Bradbury, M. A.

PATRON.

Mrs. Burrel.

1765.

CLEAR YEARLY VALUE.

£ 26 0 0

YEARLY TENTHS.

£ 1 14 0



THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

The Author Peter Muilman came
at 14 years of age from Holland in
February 1722 was the 3^d of 5 Sons &
the 2^d of Peter ^{deput} Muilman &
Maria Meulenaer
of Amsterdam, Marchant; but of an
ancient family originally Counts
of Berengen in the Dutch of Bra-
band, a younger branche left the
family on account of the Spanish
Persecution & Inquisition, & retired
into the Province of Luthphen, now
one of the 7 United provinces of their
High Mightiness the States General
where they seated them self near
Deventer on an Estate called. de
Muijs, where they have & still con-
tinue altho now 300. Years ^{ago} from
this House they took, and changed
their Name; to Muilman.

In proces of Time about 200 years
ago some of the family betaking them
to Trade & Marchandises, removed
from Luthphen & came & fixed at Am-
sterdam, ^{where Trade was} in its Infancy, & with
Industry of its Inhabitants & num-
ber from all parts flying from the
Spanish & German perrecutions
came to settle there also, add to this the
abolition of the Edict of Nantz by the
French & c. soon made it Necessary
to accomodate the New comers.
Accordingly the town was extended &
at 3 different periods off Time, was
enlarged to what it now is - the last

Augmentation being in Aug 1660
Most of the family continuing
commerce, except one Branch
took to Divinity, there being at one
time, a Father and 4 if not 5 Sons in
Holy Orders, at the Hague & other pla
ces. & what's verry Remarcable, con
tinued the Ministry to this time and
with Great Reputation, being allied
in marriage to some of the best families
in the Republick

my Worthy Father Pieter Schoone
Mullman a Wise & most sensible
Estimated so - not only by the Ma
chants but Particularly by All
the Magistrates, who often Advised
with him in Matters Relatve to Trade
the Coin &c. Gould petie in his time
was verry Rare to be seen in holland
advised against Coining it giving
this for Reason, it would be a means
of Debauchery. Prodigality, Gaming
in short Every thing that is Bad -
whereas by having only Silver 30 or
40 Shillings is as much as People
chose to be Load with, and certainly
a verry wise & vincible advice; how
Ever in process of Time Luxury Increas
ing since 1720. Gould has been coin
ed now Plenty among them
When his children grew up what to
do with 5. Boys, he could not tell; they
Self chose to be the Profession of their
Father, that would not do in one
the same Town; that Placing
them in England, those remaining
at Amsterdam might be of Reciprocal
mutual advantage to each other
by the Reciprocal connections and Na

660 and Correspondences, accordingly
in 1715, Henry. the Eldest & in 1732 Peter
the 3^d Son Came over, & these 2 Brothers
Entered unto Partnership, the first
Married Ann, 2^d D^{ch} of S^r Jⁿ: Darnel
Judge of the Marches Sea Court. left
one Daughter. he Dyed on the 4 May

1772 -
Peter Muilman the author of this
History, Married in April 1734 Mary
D^{ch} of R. Chiswell late Member of
Parliament for Calne, in Wilshire
Director of the B^o of England, Justice
of the Peace, deputy Lieutenant for
the County of Essex with whom I
had not only a Good fortune, but
her only Brother Richard Chiswell
Dying on the 3 July 1778. without
leaving a will, his Sister M^{rs} Muilman
Came in to all his Great Fortune
of above £120000 - which I did not
choose to have the Trouble of.
Resigned to my only Son. Immediately
he taking to his own ^{Name} of Rich: Muilman
that of French, Chiswel. by Virtue
of the Kings Signe Mandell, bearing
the Arms of Both families; is a
Marchant of London, and of Dedden
Hall near Newport, & Saffron Walden
Essex - is a Justice of the Peace, &
deputy Lieutenantancy of the S^r: Co.
as well as my sole Heir

With part of my own Patrimo-
nial I had from my Father from
Holland, I bought the Great & little
Weldham, & Kirby Hall Estates
in Essex

Advantages obtained for the
Nation since I have been in it

the Rate of Interest when I came in
in 1722 ~~it~~ was 6 p^{er} cent having many
Millions belonging of the Dutch
our Publick funds. I cooperated
with the D^o of Newcastle to reduce
it to 5. after that from 5. to 4 p^{er} cent
Lastly from 4 to 3 p^{er} cent at which
every Low Interest I procured
my Millions, an Expence saving
the Nation & was Instrumental of
paying one Million Ann^u many Years
In 1745. The Rebels coming to Dorchester
saw such a Consternation to be
seen ^{Gony Bank} for 4 or 5 days, which had it
but continued one day longer
must have occasioned a ~~stop~~, and
a general Bankruptcy; the force
than abroad would have deserved
The army & navy at home, for want
of Pay would have mutinied, so
alarming a crisis of Affairs, a
War against France & Spain abroad
and a Rebellion in the heart of
Nation with 100 Millions of debt
on us, every body frightened & no body
could think of a Remedy, not
left in gold in the Bank; at
last I hid upon the Thing, on
Tuesday morning I went ab-
sided the Comp^y of the Govern^{or}
Some of the Directors, Some Cap^{ts}
Bankers, Mr. Gore, Van Neck &
many Principal Merchants &
Cap^{ts} Traders; met at the Kings
arms Tavern in Cornhill, and
there proposed to enter immediately
into an Association to support

the Bank & Restore Confidence & Publick Credit, by engaging one the other to take no money out but immediately carry back all the Cash possible, to Refuse no ^{Bank} Notes, but to take again all the Offers, this Resolution being un-animously approved off. was immediately Signed & Seald by 500 Merchants & principal Traders. and all faces again ^{where} chearfull, & money plenty. the Rebels hearing of all this disappointed of partaking of their expected Booty; thought of nothing but how to find their way back to Scotland; this Manoevre got me Universal thank of all well wishers of the Nation

A few Years ago I proposed to Ministry a Tax on Inheritances in the collateral Line, w^{ch} the D^{ch} of Grafton highly liked & approved off. but S^r: he could not carry it, thro. I undertook to do it & should have done it had the than General Election been over. this Tax would have brought in its thought 3 Million a Year. it may still be done at any time

Backford, Wilks & that Party. I answered, Silence, & instead as was expected that Blood w^{ch} have been spilt & many lives lost the Day he came out of Goal, I prevented by my Warning letter to the first

PM: 17th 74.

be Continued in the 2^d Vol.

